



given

STORY AND ART BY
NATSUKI KIZU

4





Given

Story and Art by **Natsuki Kizu**

volume 4

CONTENTS

Chapter 17	005
Chapter 18	035
Chapter 19	055
Chapter 20	083
Chapter 21	117
Character Data Files 1: Kaji, Behind You!!	147
Character Data Files 2: Basic Stats	148
Character Data Files 3: How Akihiko Kaji Got Skint	149
Character Data Files 4: Definitely the Kind of Kid... ..	150
Character Data Files 5: Why Ritsuka Uenoyama... ..	151
Character Data Files 6: Stand	152
Character Spotlight! 1: Hanaoka of Hair Salon Harusame	153
Character Spotlight! 2: High School Trio	154
Character Spotlight! 3: Middle School Trio	155
Character Spotlight! 4: Bonus Strip	156



given

VOLUME 4

NATSUKI KIZU

STORY

MAFUYU SATO

High school classmate of Uenoyama's. Has an impressive singing voice.
Attached to Uenoyama ever since he fixed Mafuyu's broken guitar.

HARUKI NAKAYAMA

Graduate student. The band's bassist. He's extremely good-natured and kind.

AKIHIKO KAJI

University student. The band's drummer. A bit of a playboy who's popular without ever trying.

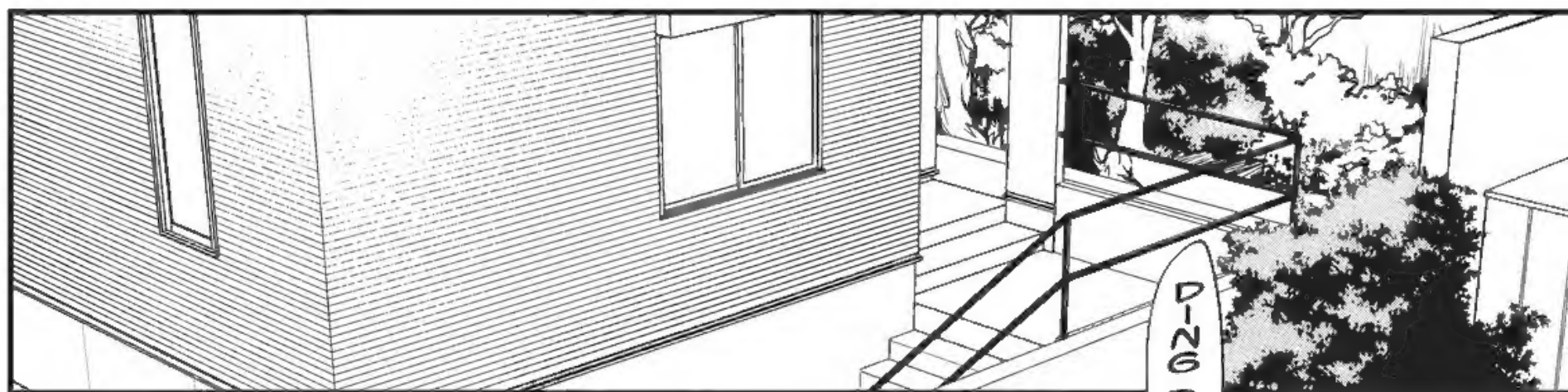
When Ritsuka Uenoyama hears Mafuyu Sato sing for the first time, he's blown away by the other boy's raw talent and immediately asks Mafuyu to join his band. Uenoyama's bandmates Akihiko Kaji and Haruki Nakayama agree, and the three of them set a goal of coming up with a new song to perform at an upcoming concert. It falls to Mafuyu to write the lyrics, a task the quiet student finds impossible.

However, during the concert, Mafuyu's pent-up emotions burst out of him and pour into the song. His spontaneous, powerful performance turns the show into an overwhelming success. Shocked into awareness, Uenoyama realizes he has feelings for Mafuyu and kisses him backstage. Before long, the two of them become a couple. Meanwhile, Haruki continues to nurse his secret crush on Akihiko, who's still entangled with his roommate and ex-boyfriend, professional violinist Ugetsu Murata.

RITSUKA UENOYAMA

Lead guitarist with skills far beyond those of an average high school student. Caring and compassionate. The consummate little brother to his big sister, Yayoi, who totally has him trained.







FLINCH

HM?

FA-
KZ-O

!!IIII!!

YOU'RE
THE KID
WITH
THE
SONG!!

!!

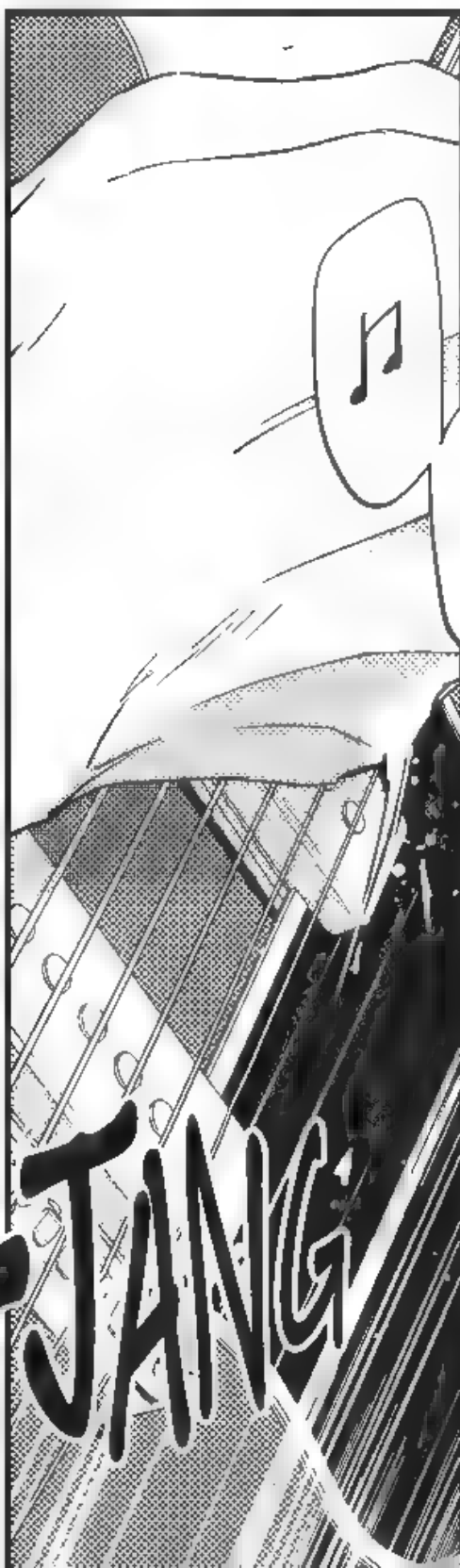
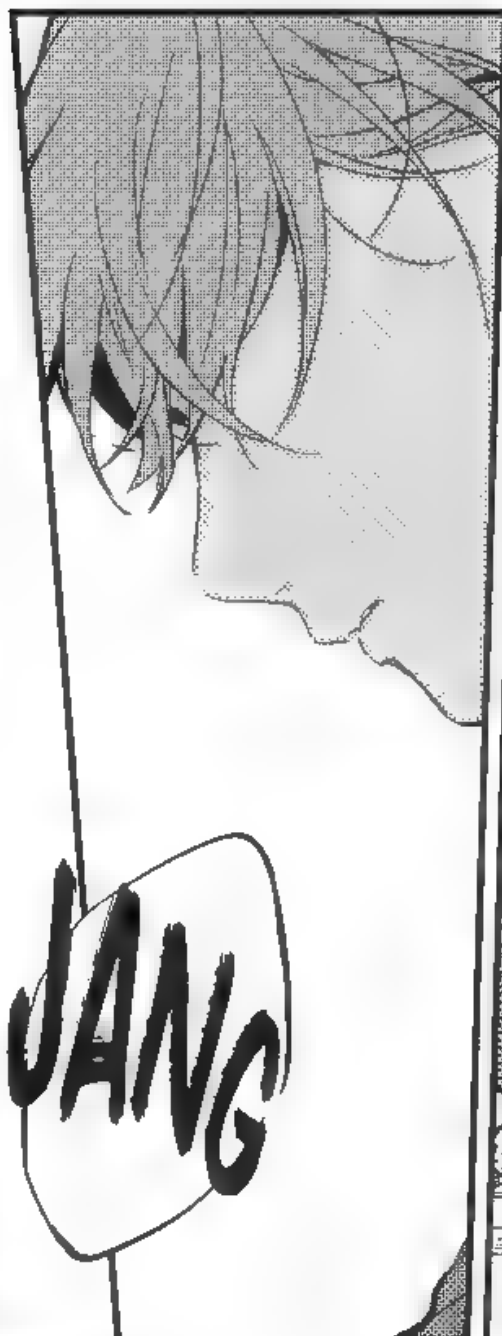
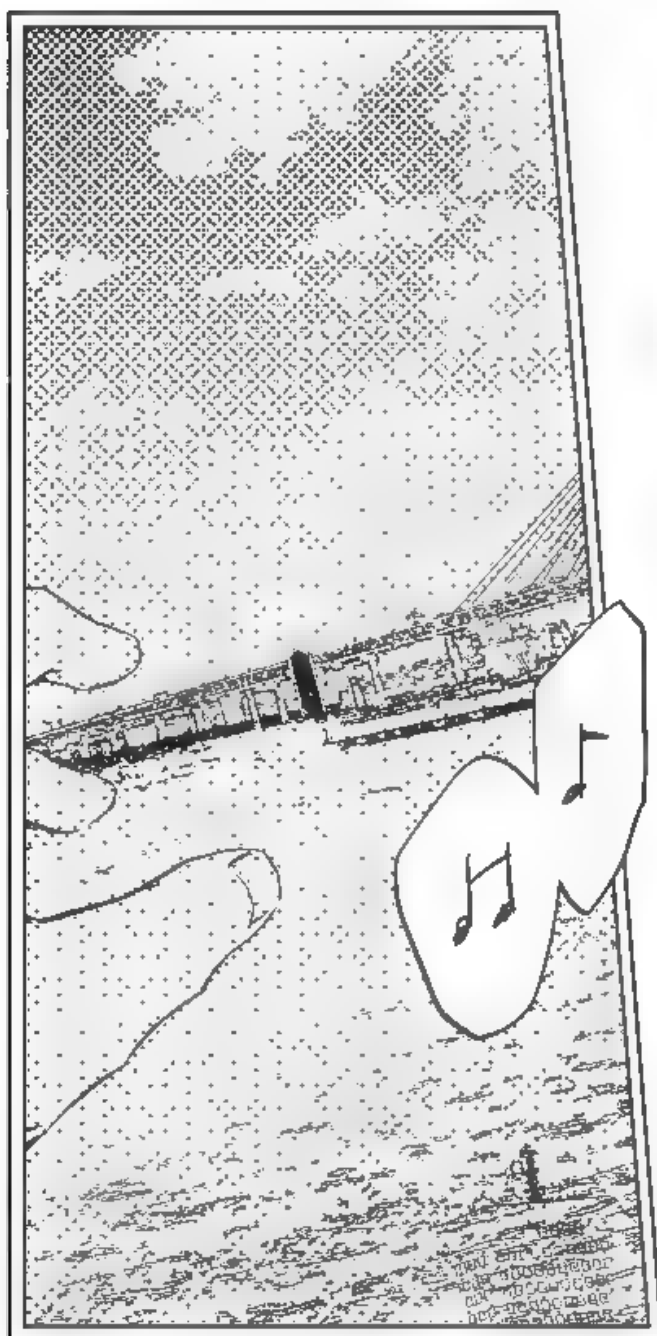


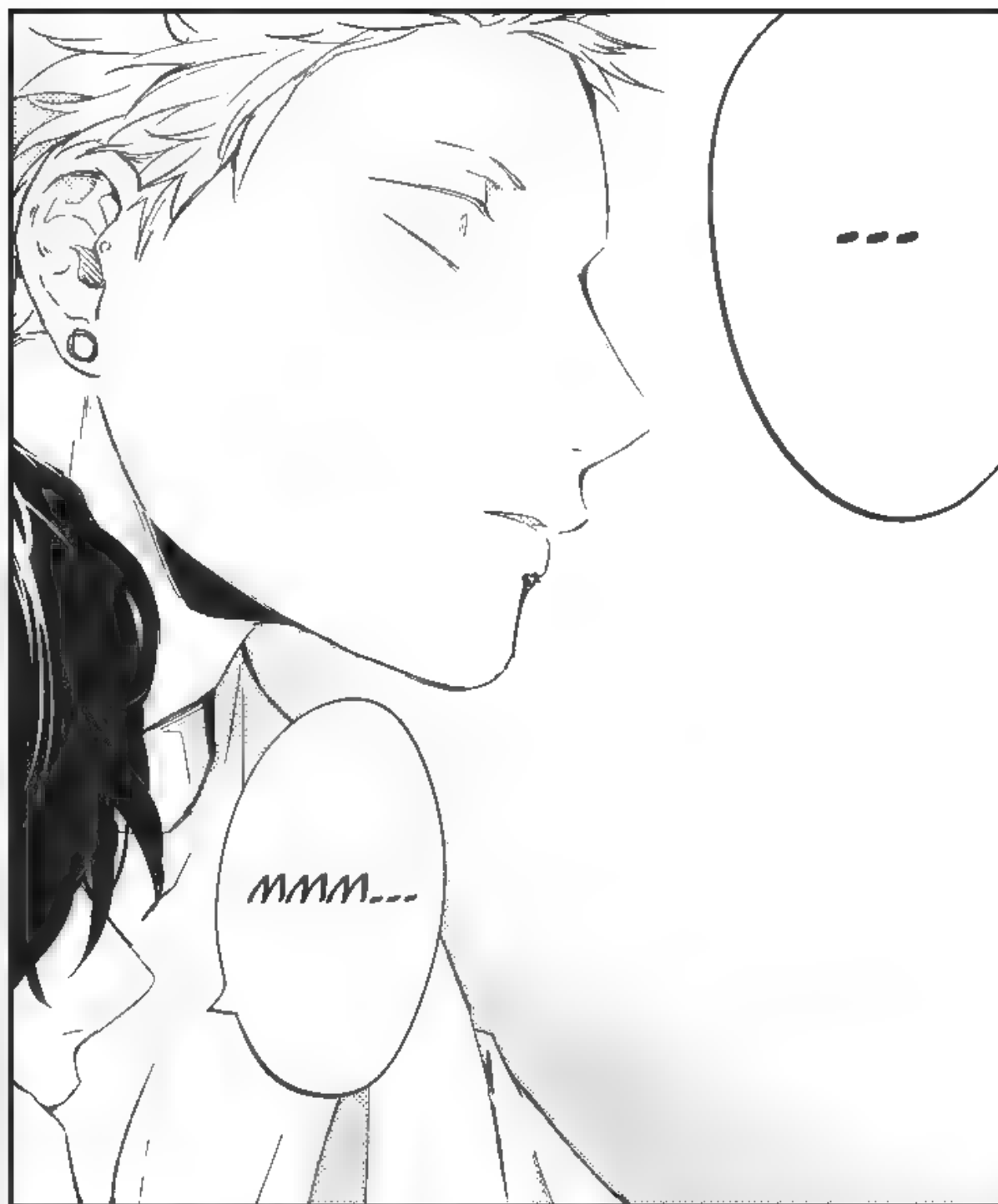
given

chapter 17

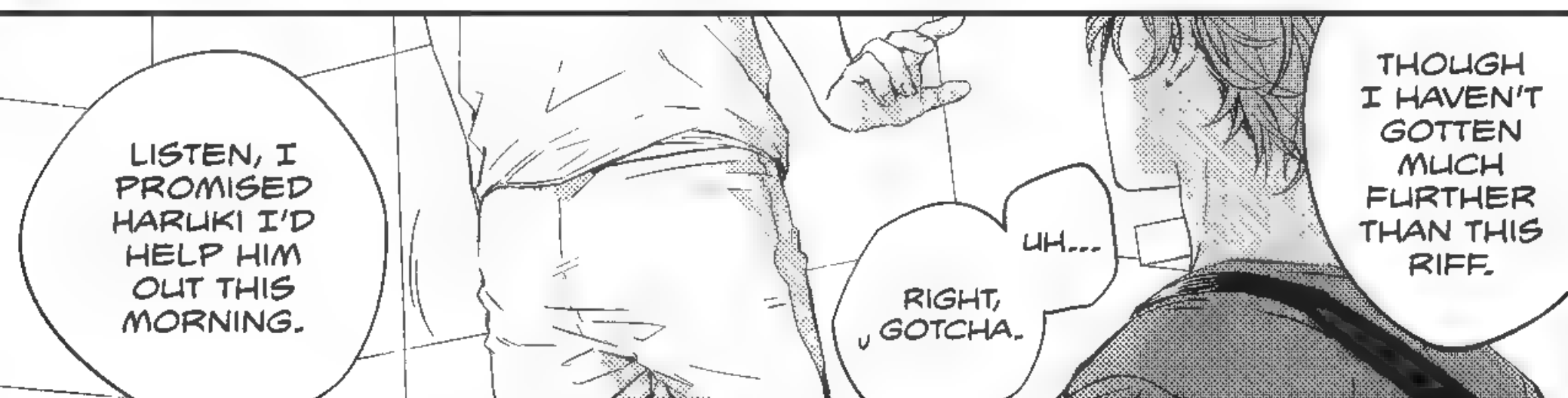














WHAT ?!

YOU JUST LEFT HIM THERE?! WILL HE BE OKAY?!

YEAH.

AND ...

YOU HAVE A ROOM-MATE?!

I DO.



SWSH...

A GENIUS'S FIELD OF VISION CAN NARROW LIKE THIS...

...YA KNOW ?

ROOM-MATE ...

SO NOW HE SUDDENLY SHOWS UP ON MY DOORSTEP EARLY IN THE MORNING.

IT'S LIKE CHARGE!

...OR SOME-THIN'.

R-ROOM-MATE...

...OR SOME-THIN'.

UNTIL NOW, HIS TALENT WAS ALL TRAPPED INSIDE, SO NOW THAT IT'S RELEASED, IT'S LIKE BAM!

ANYWAY, IT'S SCARY HOW FAST MAFLUYU IS PROGRESSING.



ANYONE WHO HARDLY EVER STUDIES FOR TESTS BUT STILL RANKS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CLASS AT THAT HIGH SCHOOL HAS GOTTA BE REALLY SMART!

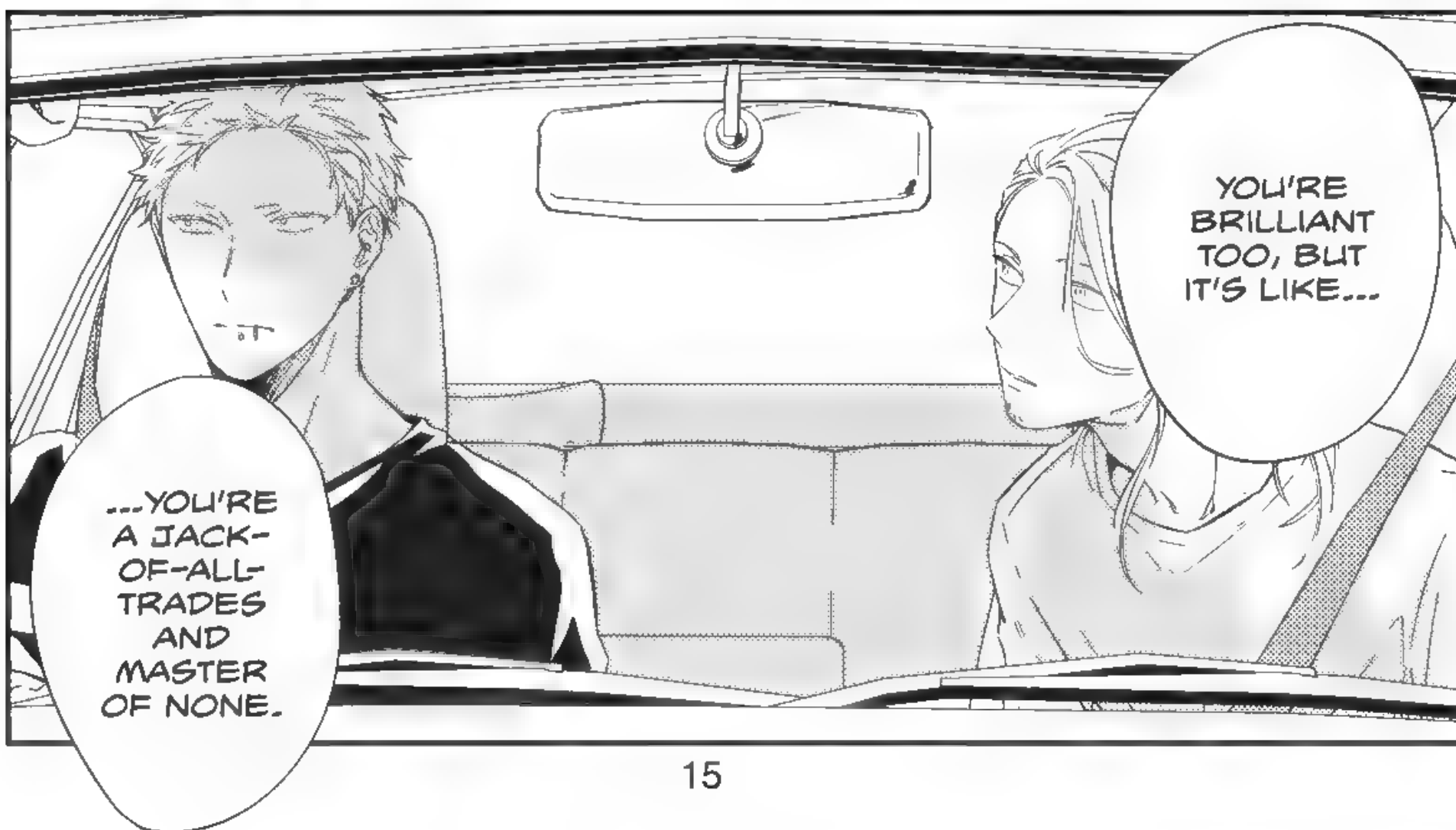
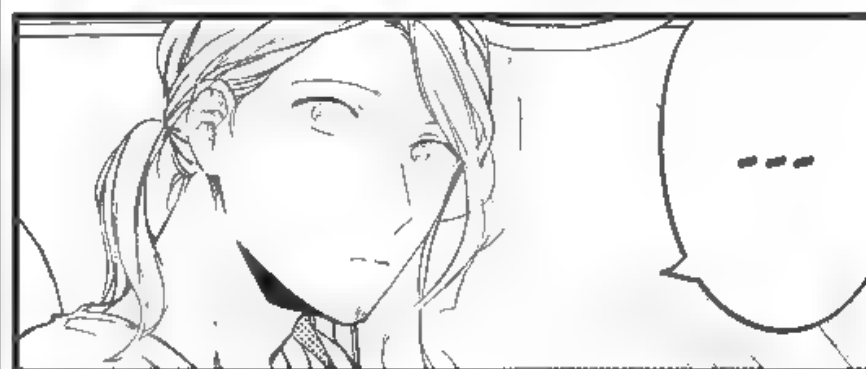
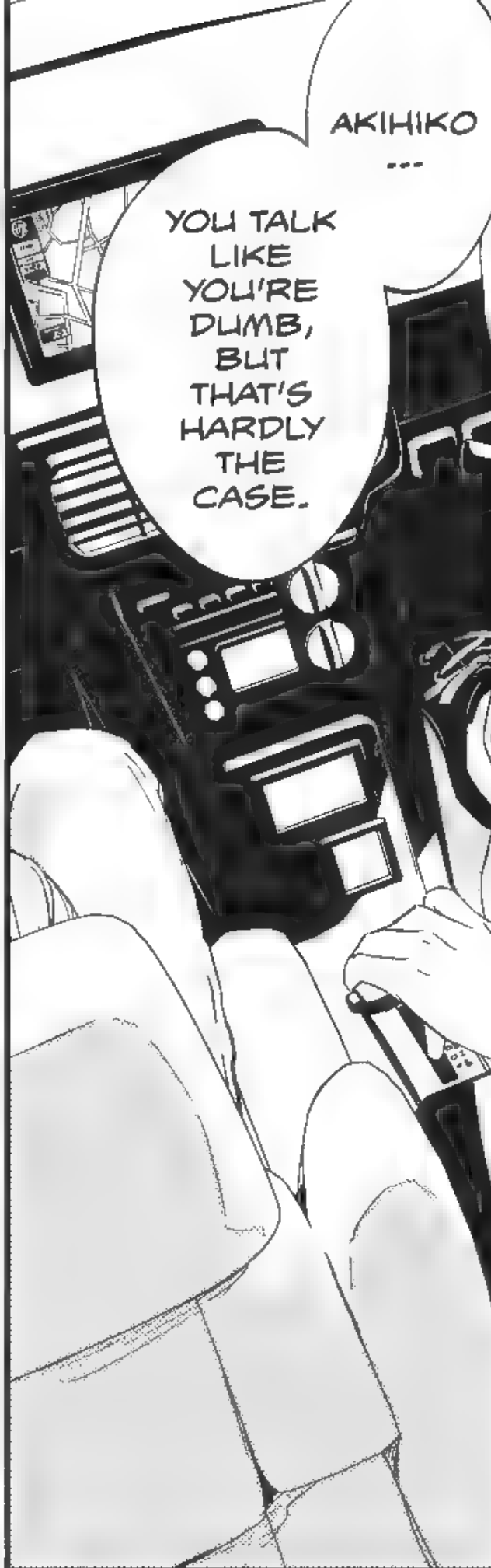
I KNOW, RIGHT?!

UENOYAMA'S LIKE THAT SOMETIMES.

HE COMPLAINS ABOUT HAVING TO GO TO SUMMER SCHOOL, BUT IT'S JUST FOR TWO SUBJECTS.

YEAH, HE'S KIND OF A GENIUS TOO.

But he goes with the flow.





....SOMETIMES
IT'S HARD,
Y'KNOW?
NOT BEING
SPECIAL IN
ANY WAY.

IT'S
JUST...

ME,
I'M THE
TOTALLY
AVERAGE
TYPE!

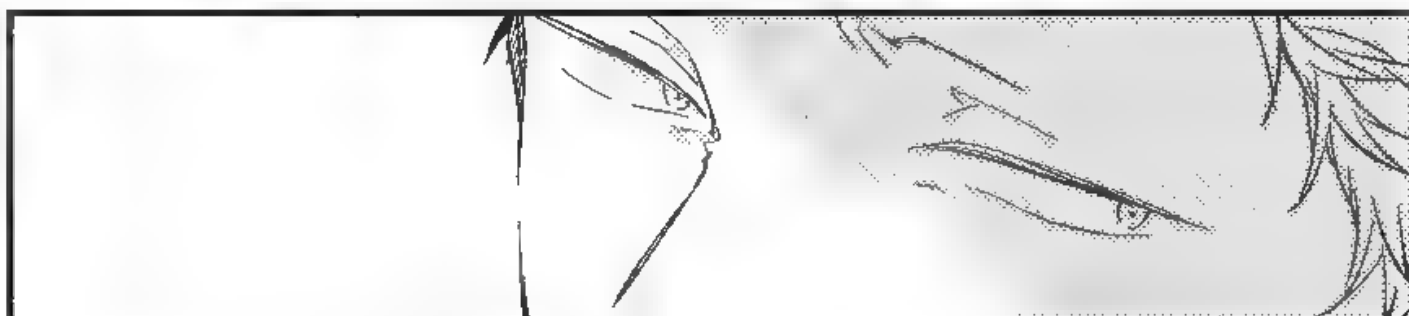
THE
JACK-
OF-ALL-
TRADES
THING IS
COOL!

OH, SO
NOW
YOU'RE
DISSIN'
ME?

NO!

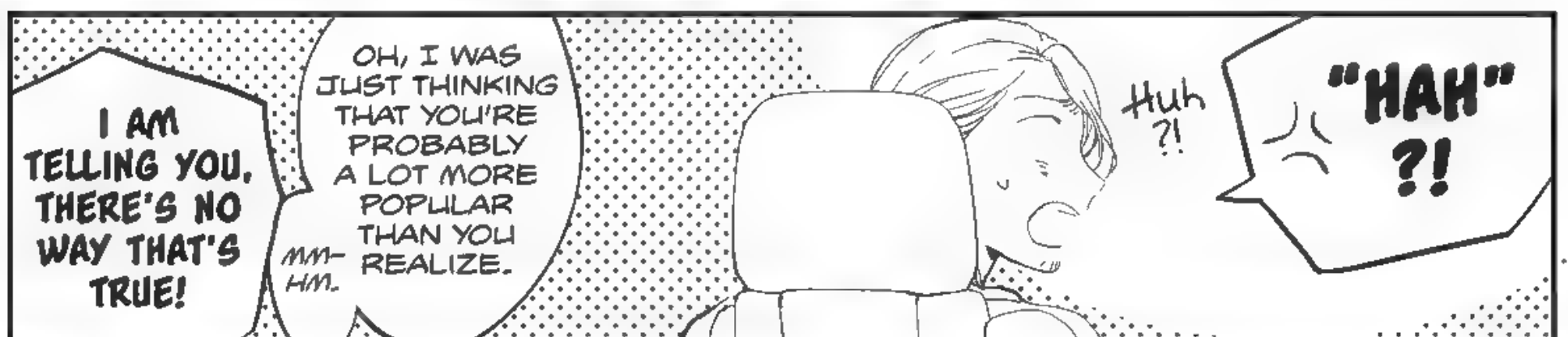


THAT'S WHY
EVERYONE'S
DRAWN TO
YOU.



YOU'RE THE
TYPE OF
PERSON
WHO HOLDS
OTHER
PEOPLE
TOGETHER.

EH?

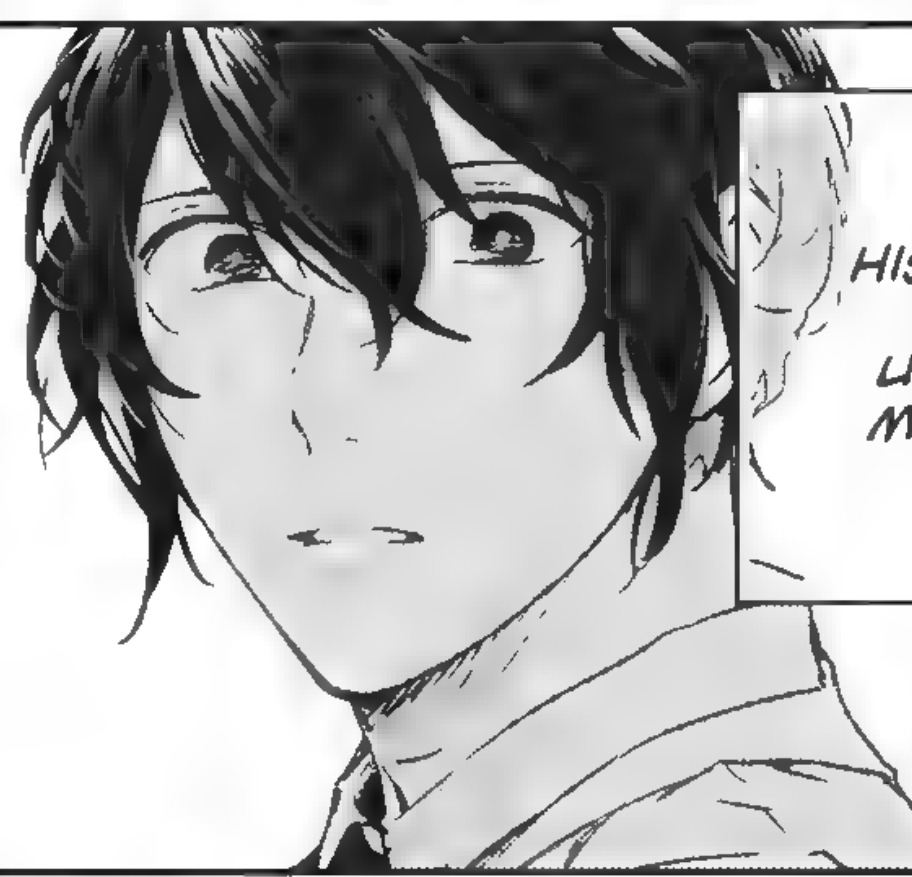


LOOKING
BACK ON IT
NOW, IT WAS
AN EXCRUCI-
ATING
EXPERIENCE.



WHILE I WAS
COMPETING
FOR FIRST
OR SECOND
PLACE AT
COMPETITIONS
IN JAPAN...


...THERE WAS A
GENIUS WINNING
A STRING OF
FIRST-PLACE
PRIZES ABROAD,
CHEWING UP
AND SPITTING
OUT THE
DREAMS OF
TALENTED YOUNG
PERFORMERS
BACK HOME.



HIS NAME
WAS
UGETSU
MURATA.

WHO
ARE
YOU
?

OH!




I THOUGHT
YOU HAD A
DELICATE
TOUCH.

YOU WON
SECOND
PLACE AT
THAT LAST
CONCOURS,
RIGHT?

UGETSU
MURATA WAS
BY NO MEANS
DETACHED
FROM THE
REAL WORLD.

HE COULD
BE AS
VOLATILE AS
THE NEXT
PERSON.
IN FACT...



...HE HAD
A HUGE
HEART, AND
THE FORCE
OF HIS
EMOTIONS
DWARFED
THAT OF THE
AVERAGE
PERSON.

UGETSU
TRANSFERRED
INTO MY
CLASS.

I WOULD
BECOME
HIS FIRST
"FRIEND."

SOON AFTER,
I'D EFFECTIVELY
GIVEN UP
THE VIOLIN
AFTER BEING
OVERWHELMED
BY HIS SKILL.

YOUR
BRAHMS
WAS VERY
GOOD.



IT WAS THE
SUMMER
OF MY
FIRST YEAR
IN HIGH
SCHOOL.



...BECAUSE HE EXPERIENCED THOSE FEELINGS TO A FAR GREATER DEGREE THAN MOST PEOPLE.

HE TURNED THEM ALL INTO SOUND, WITH MORE CLARITY THAN MOST PEOPLE COULD PERCEIVE...



...THAT IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS CARRYING SUCH A HEAVY BURDEN. AND I WONDERED WHAT HIS LIFE WAS LIKE.



I GOT USED TO LISTENING TO UGETSU PLAY. BUT ONE DAY...

...A FLOOD OF EMOTIONS SEEMED TO BURST THROUGH HIS SONG.

AND I THOUGHT ...





I WAS
FERVENTLY
JEALOUS
OF THAT.

BUT I
ALSO FELT
SORRY
FOR HIM.

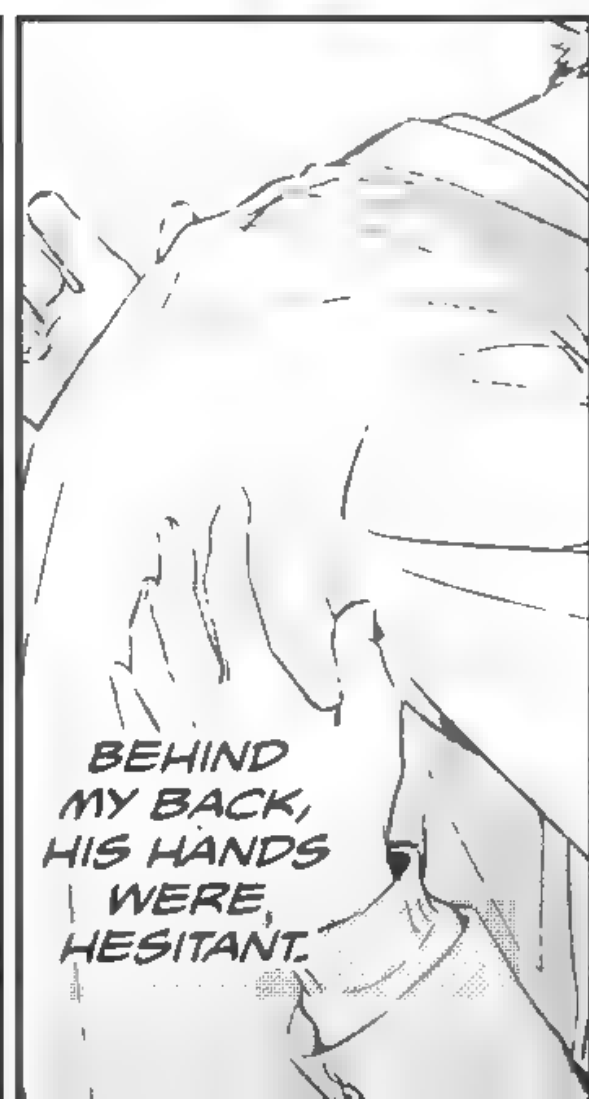


...I
TENSED
UP...

...AS IF
I'D BEEN
PRICKED
BY
NEEDLES.



WHEN I FELT
HIS TOUCH
THROUGH
THE FABRIC
OF MY
SHIRT...



BEHIND
MY BACK,
HIS HANDS
WERE
HESITANT.



I WANTED
THOSE
NEEDLES
TO EXPOSE
EVERYTHING
INSIDE ME.

TO
STRIP
ME
BARE.

I WANTED
TO DULL THE
SHARPNESS
OF HIS
SOUND.



LITTLE
BY
LITTLE,
I WAS
LOSING
MY
EDGE.

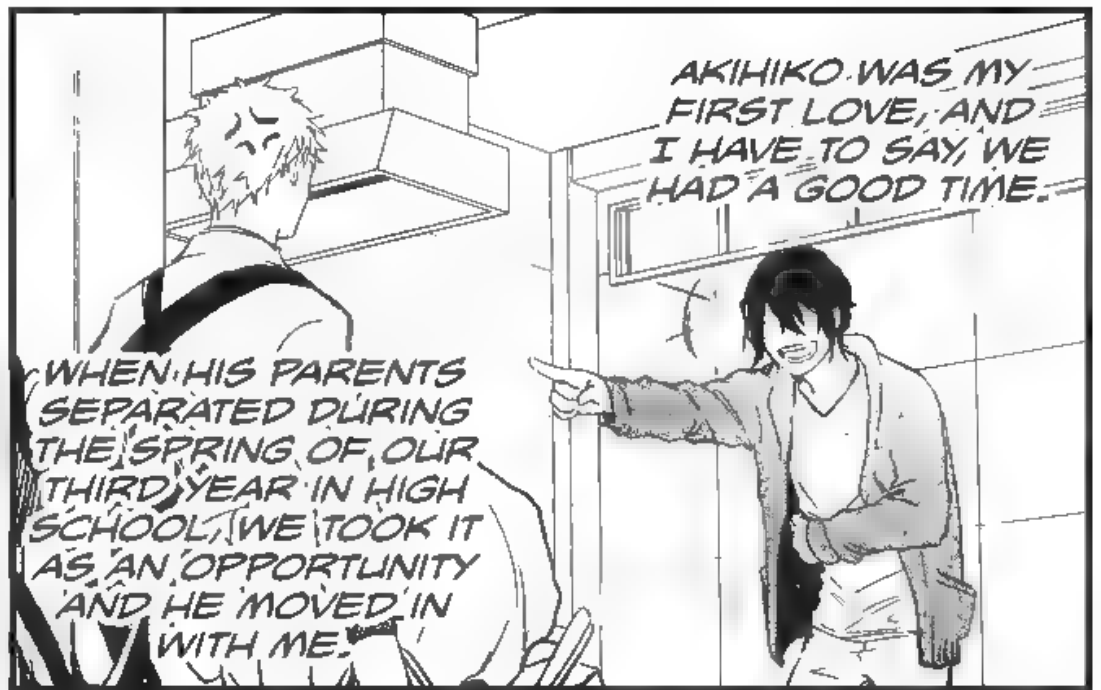
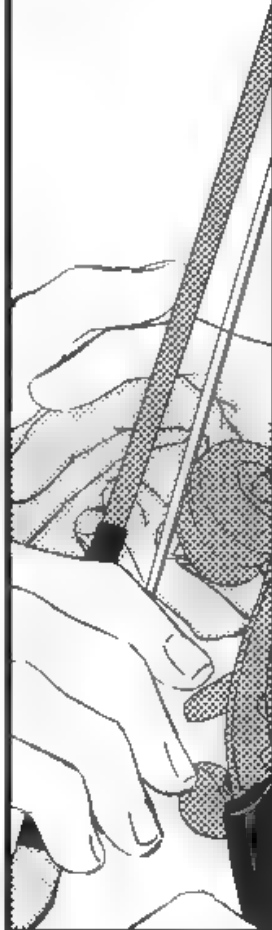
BUT WHEN
SOME-
THING
TOUCHES
YOUR
HEART
LIKE
THAT...

...YOU
BECOME
SPOILED.
YOU GET
SOFT.



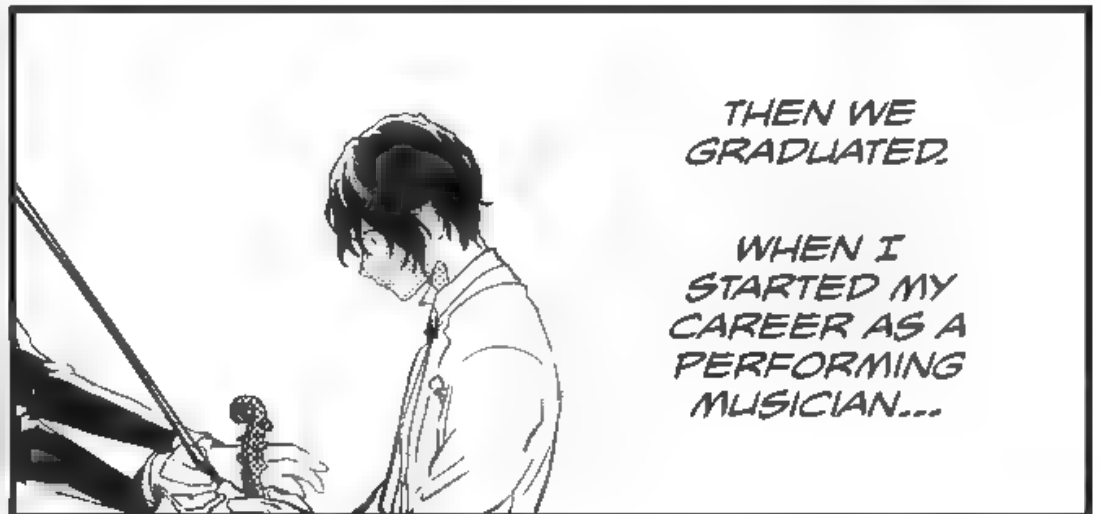
...THAT
WE'D
DRIVEN
EACH
OTHER
INTO A
CORNER.

...I
SUDDENLY
REALIZED
...



AKIHIKO WAS MY
FIRST LOVE, AND
I HAVE TO SAY, WE
HAD A GOOD TIME.

WHEN HIS PARENTS
SEPARATED DURING
THE SPRING OF OUR
THIRD YEAR IN HIGH
SCHOOL, WE TOOK IT
AS AN OPPORTUNITY
AND HE MOVED IN
WITH ME.



THEN WE
GRADUATED.

WHEN I
STARTED MY
CAREER AS A
PERFORMING
MUSICIAN...



AND MY
PRESENCE
WAS A
FUNDAMENTAL
TORMENT TO
AKIHIKO.

WHEN
AKIHIKO
WAS
AROUND,
I LOST MY
FREEDOM
WITH MY
MUSIC.



clap

clap

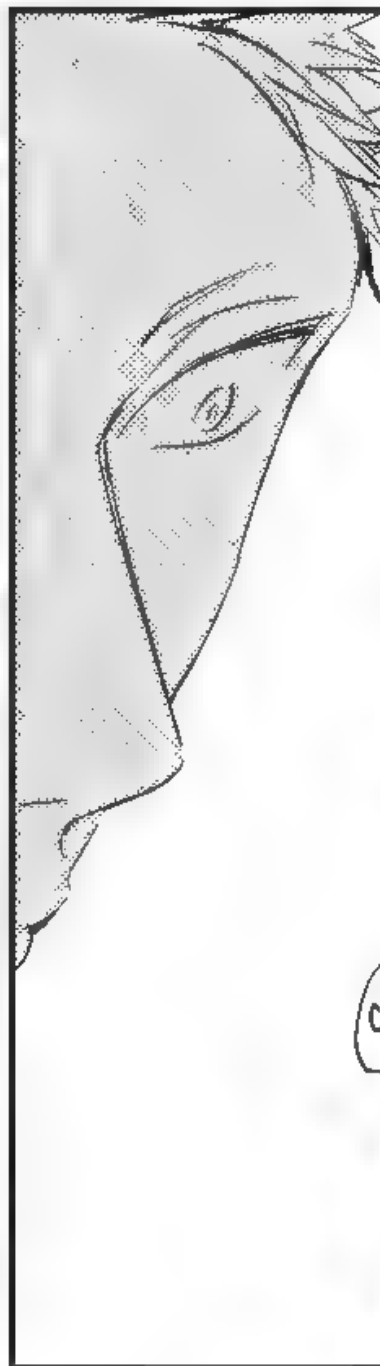
CHEER

LET'S
END
THIS.



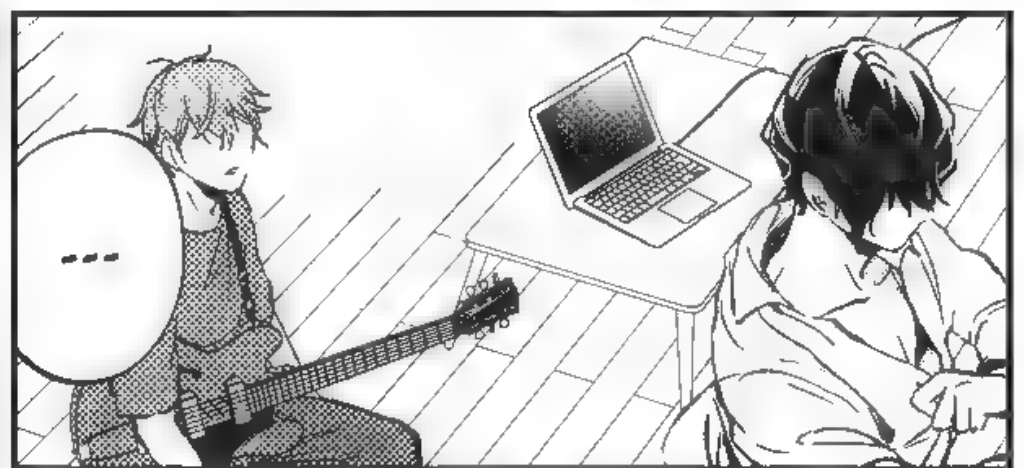
YEAH?

AKIHIKO
...



AND
YOU
KNOW
THE
REST.





EVEN
IF IT'S
JUST A
LITTLE.

I DON'T
OFTEN
SHOW MY
EMOTIONS
...

...SO
AKIHIKO
PROBABLY
THINKS I'M
CRUEL.

BUT I
LOVE HIM
LIKE YOU
WOULDN'T
BELIEVE.

EVEN
IF IT'S
JUST A
LITTLE...

AH...

...HIS
SCREAM.

THIS
IS...

I DUMPED
HIM, BUT
HE HASN'T
LEFT ME.

EVERY
TIME
THERE'S A
CHANCE, I
TRY TO GET
RID OF
HIM...

...BUT IT
HASN'T
WORKED
YET.

I KEEP
WAITING...

...FOR
HIM TO
LEAVE
ME.





Wave

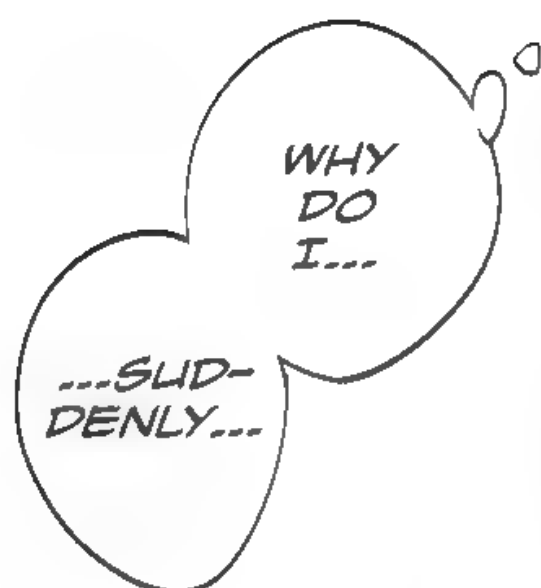
AND IF
THAT STORY
INTRIGUES
YOU, FEEL
FREE TO
WRITE A SONG
ABOUT IT.



...I'M
LEAVING, BUT
THE WHOLE
PLACE IS
SOUND-
PROOFED, SO
FEEL FREE
TO USE IT.



BTAM



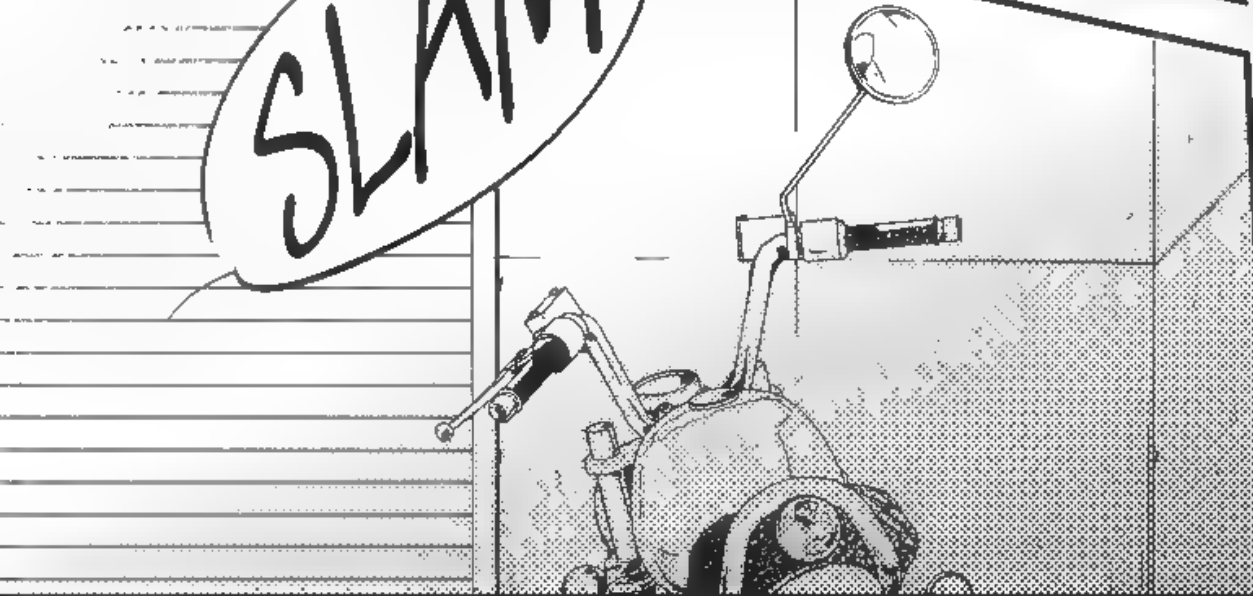
WHY
DO
I...

...SUDDENLY...



...



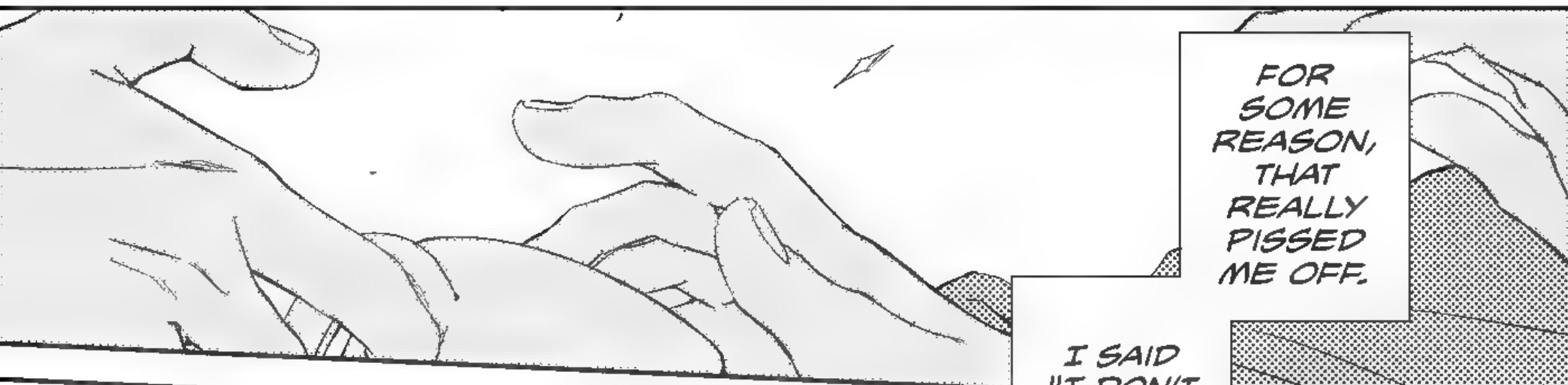


...WANT
TO SEE
LIENOYAMA?



RIGHT AFTER
WE FIRST
STARTED
LIVING
TOGETHER...

...AKIHIKO
GAVE ME
A GIFT
FOR THE
FIRST
TIME.



FOR
SOME
REASON,
THAT
REALLY
PISSED
ME OFF.

I SAID
"I DON'T
WANT
IT!" AND
REJECTED
IT.



EVEN
THOUGH IT
WAS ONLY
A MUG.

I SHOULD
HAVE
JUST SAID
"THANK
YOU" AND
ACCEPTED
IT.



I WANT
TO BE
WITH
YOU.

**BUT I
LOVE
MUSIC
MORE.**

I WANT
TO BE
WITH
YOU.

I WANT
TO BE
WITH
YOU.



**I'M
SURE
I'LL
NEVER
MEET
ANYONE
BETTER
THAN
HIM.**

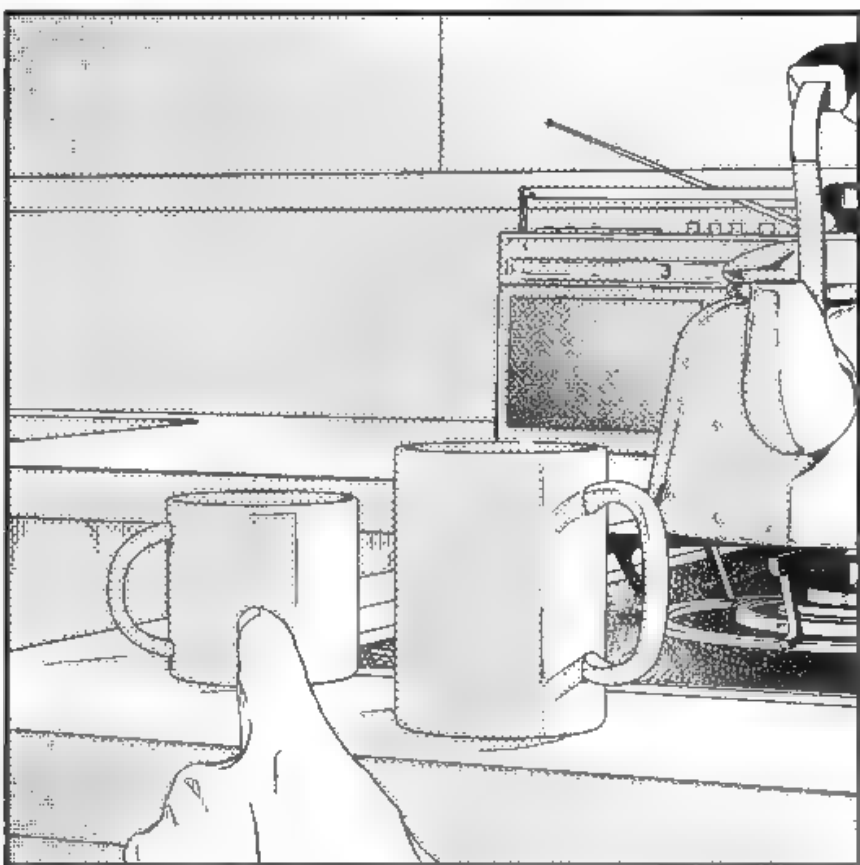


**HE
REALLY
IS...**

**....A
GOOD
GUY.**



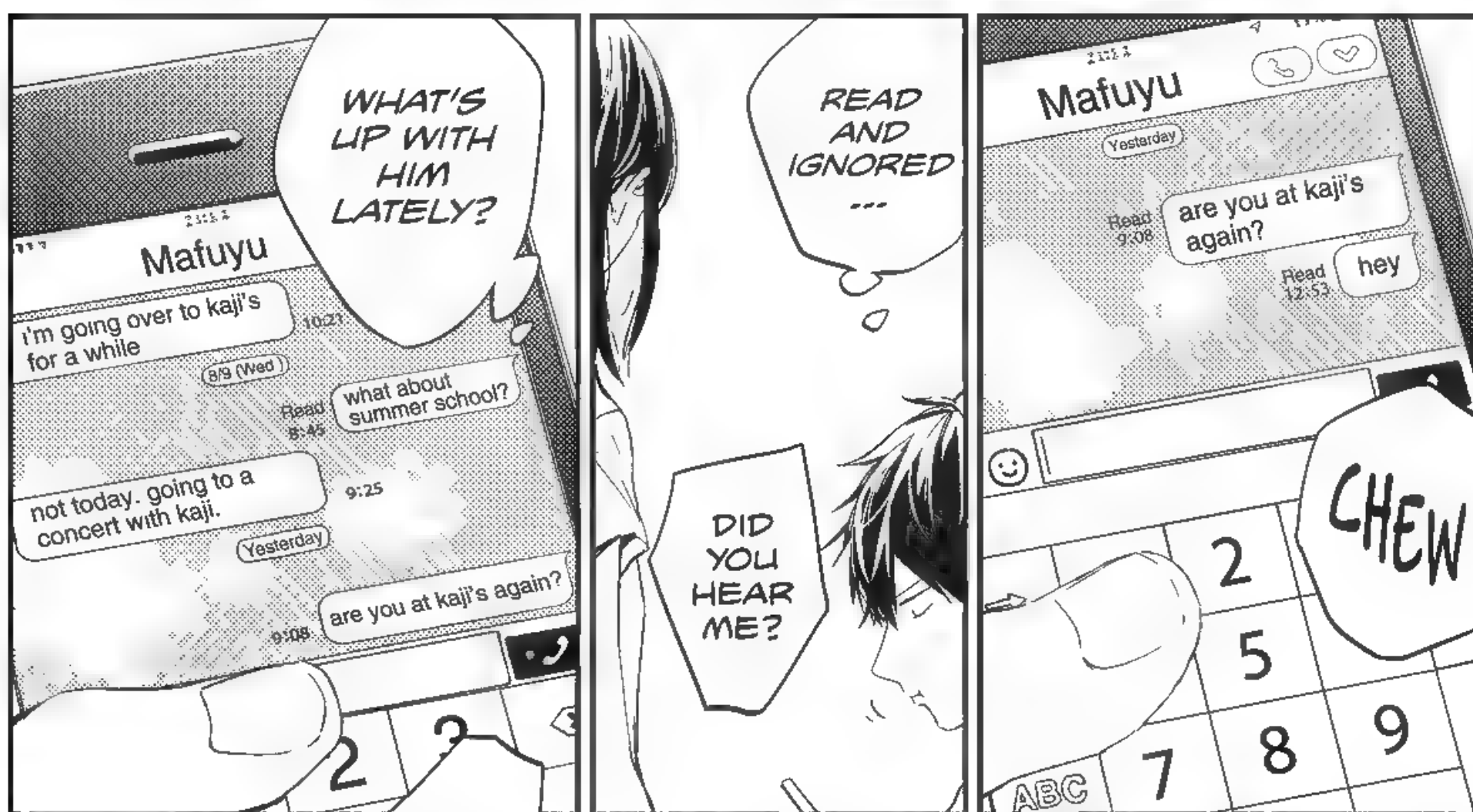
ugetsumurataofficial

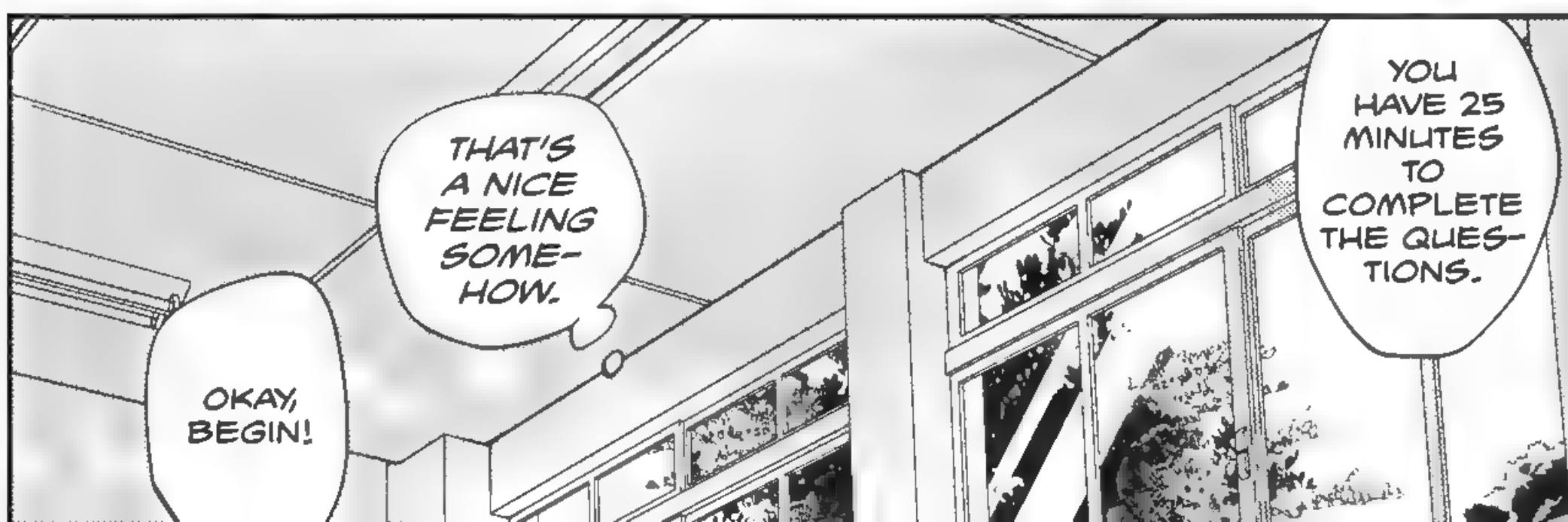


I got a new mug but I hate this one.

given

by Natsuki Kizu







chapter 18

given



2--3 2--3

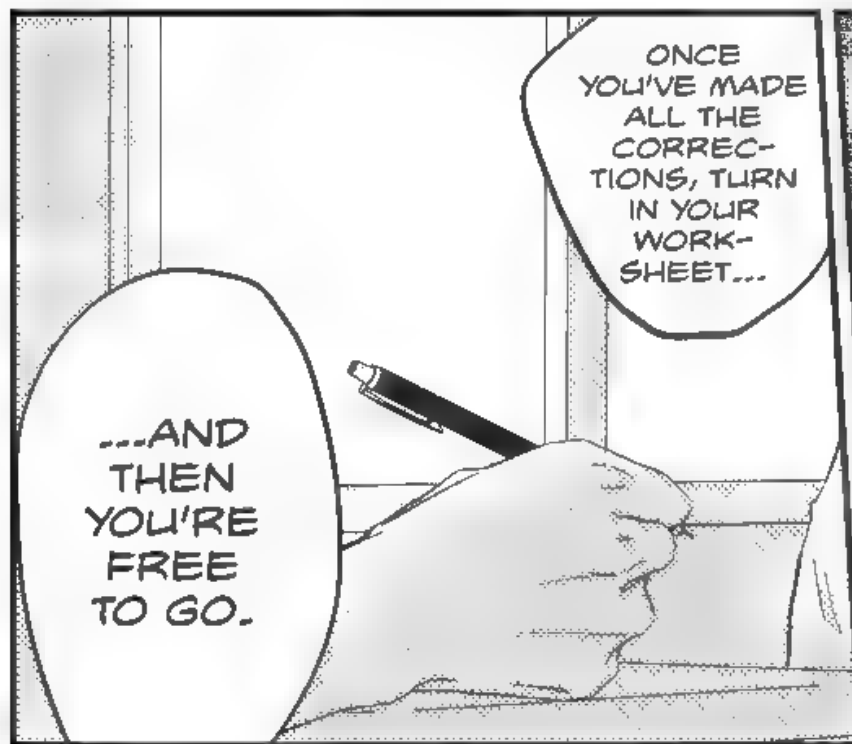
THERE'S A LONG SECONDARY MONOLOGUE ABOUT THAT. IDENTIFY THE SECTION WITH THE RELEVANT ...

THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER THAT CAN'T BE VALID AT THE SAME TIME.



CHIRRR

WHAT DOES THE DILEMMA HIGHLIGHT? START SEARCHING FROM THE NEXT PARAGRAPH.



...AND THEN YOU'RE FREE TO GO.

ONCE YOU'VE MADE ALL THE CORRECTIONS, TURN IN YOUR WORK-SHEET...



SUMMARIZE THE PREVIOUS UNDERLINED PASSAGE ...



YES'M.

YOU TWO CAN'T HANG AROUND IN HERE. PLEASE GET GOING.

RATTL



UENO-YAMA?

See ya!

CAN WE WALK TOGETHER ?

...





IS HE
PLAYING
WITH
ME?

ARE YOU
MAD
ABOUT
SOME-
THING?

HAVE YOU
REALLY
BEEN
SPENDING
EVERY
SINGLE
DAY WITH
KAJI?

SLAP

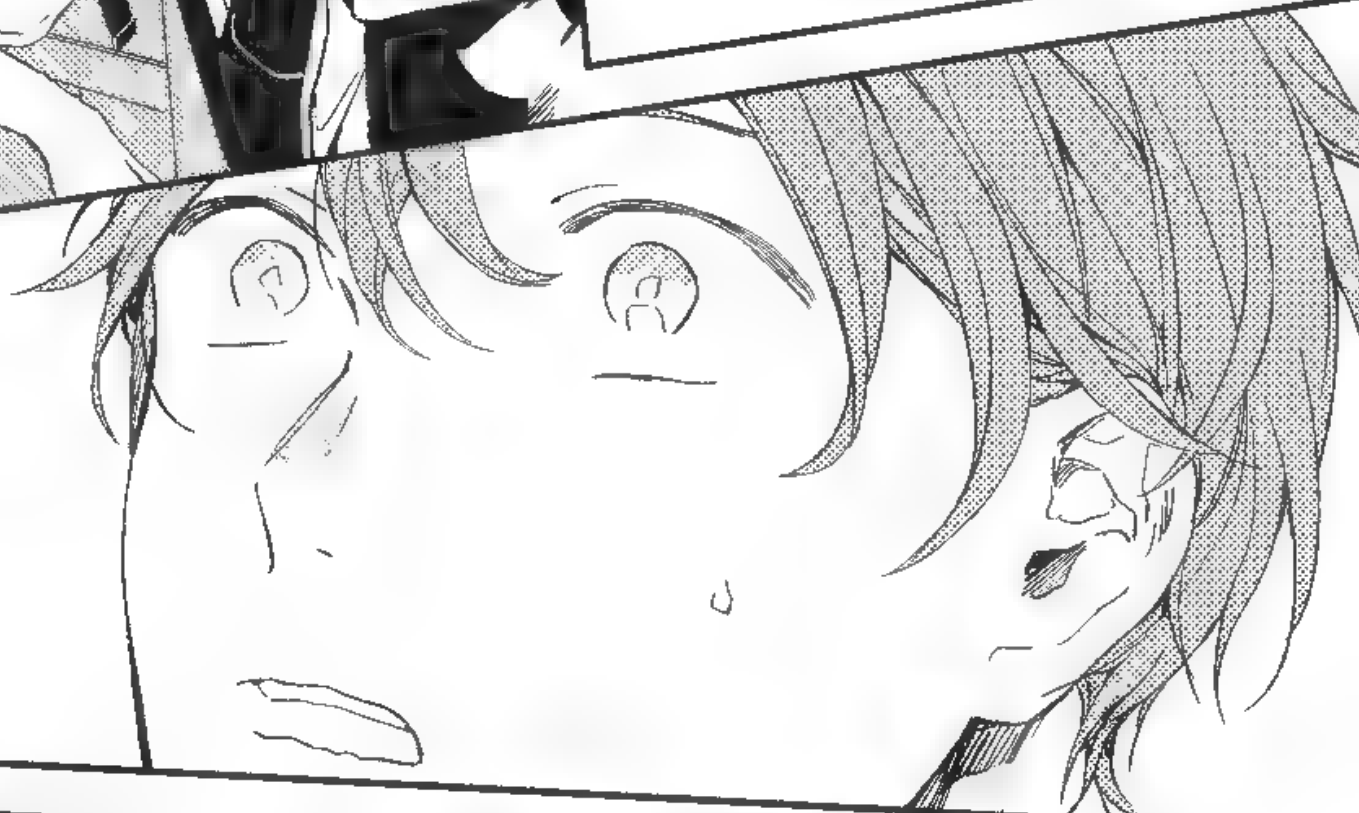
YEAH
...?

BAM!





WHY
ARE
YOU
MAD?



I HAVE
NO
IDEA.

WH-?

ARE
YOU
FOR
REAL?!

YOU
DON'T
HAVE A
SINGLE
CLUE?!

I MEAN,
MAYBE
I DO...

...
BUT
...

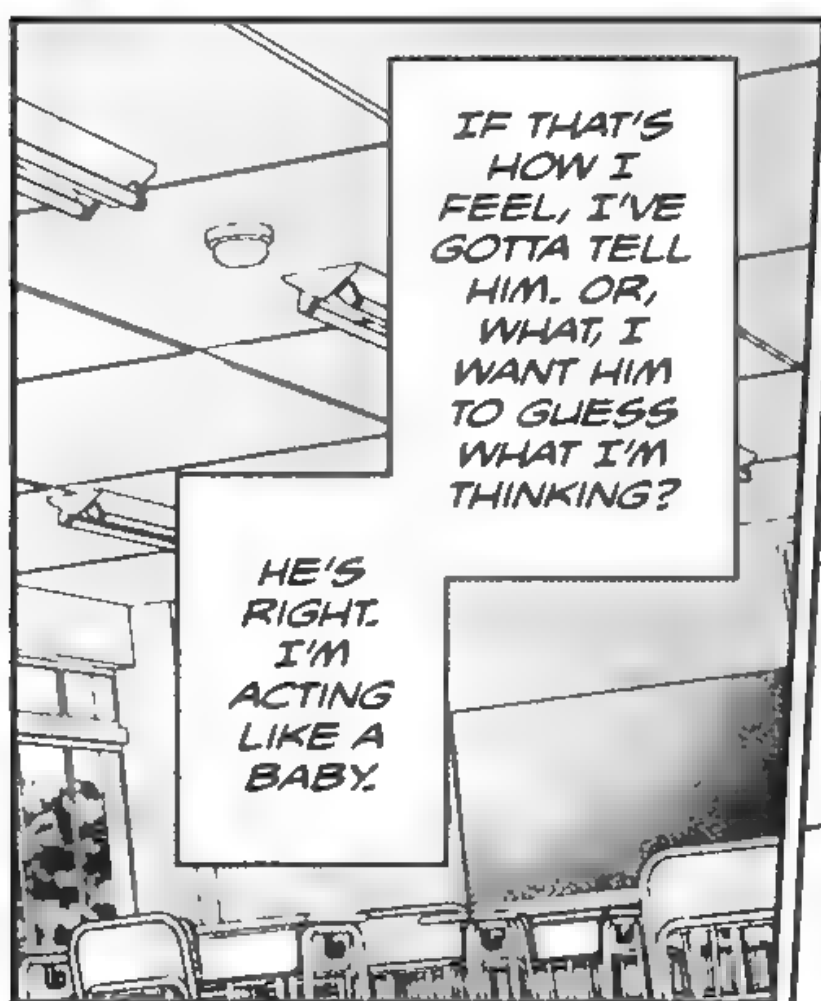
SO
WHICH
IS IT?!



HUH
?!

YOU
DON'T
KNOW
?!



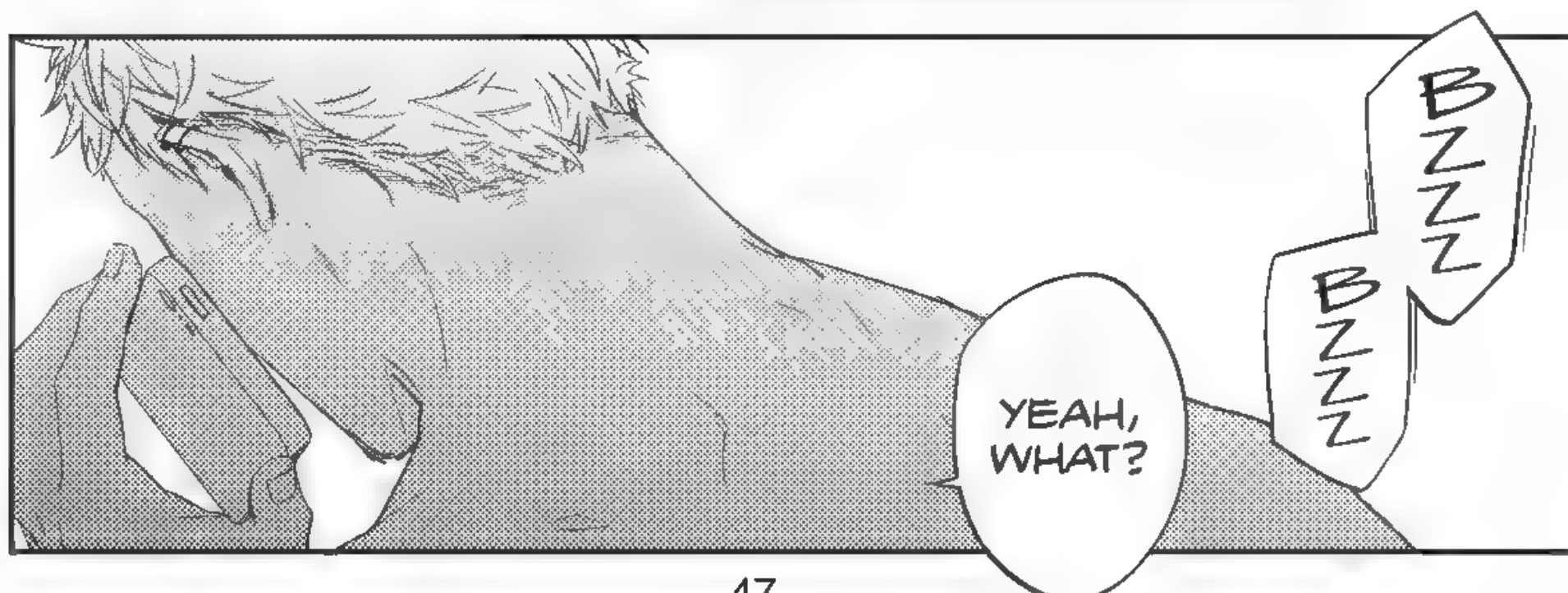
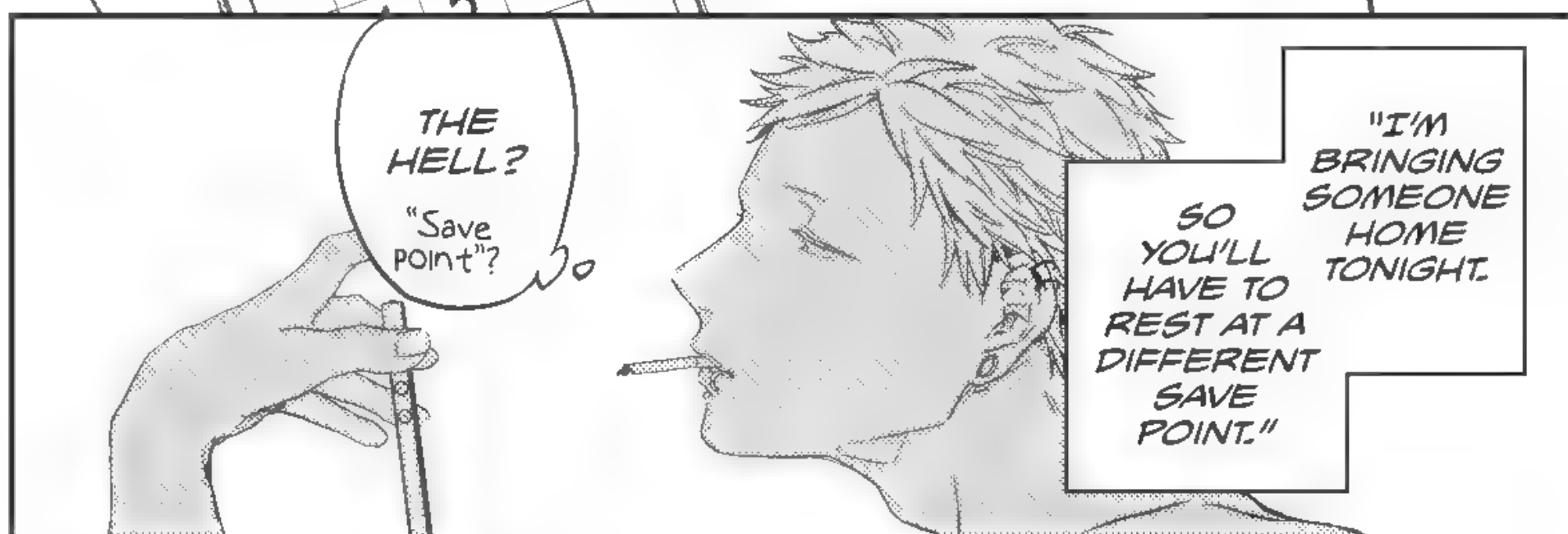
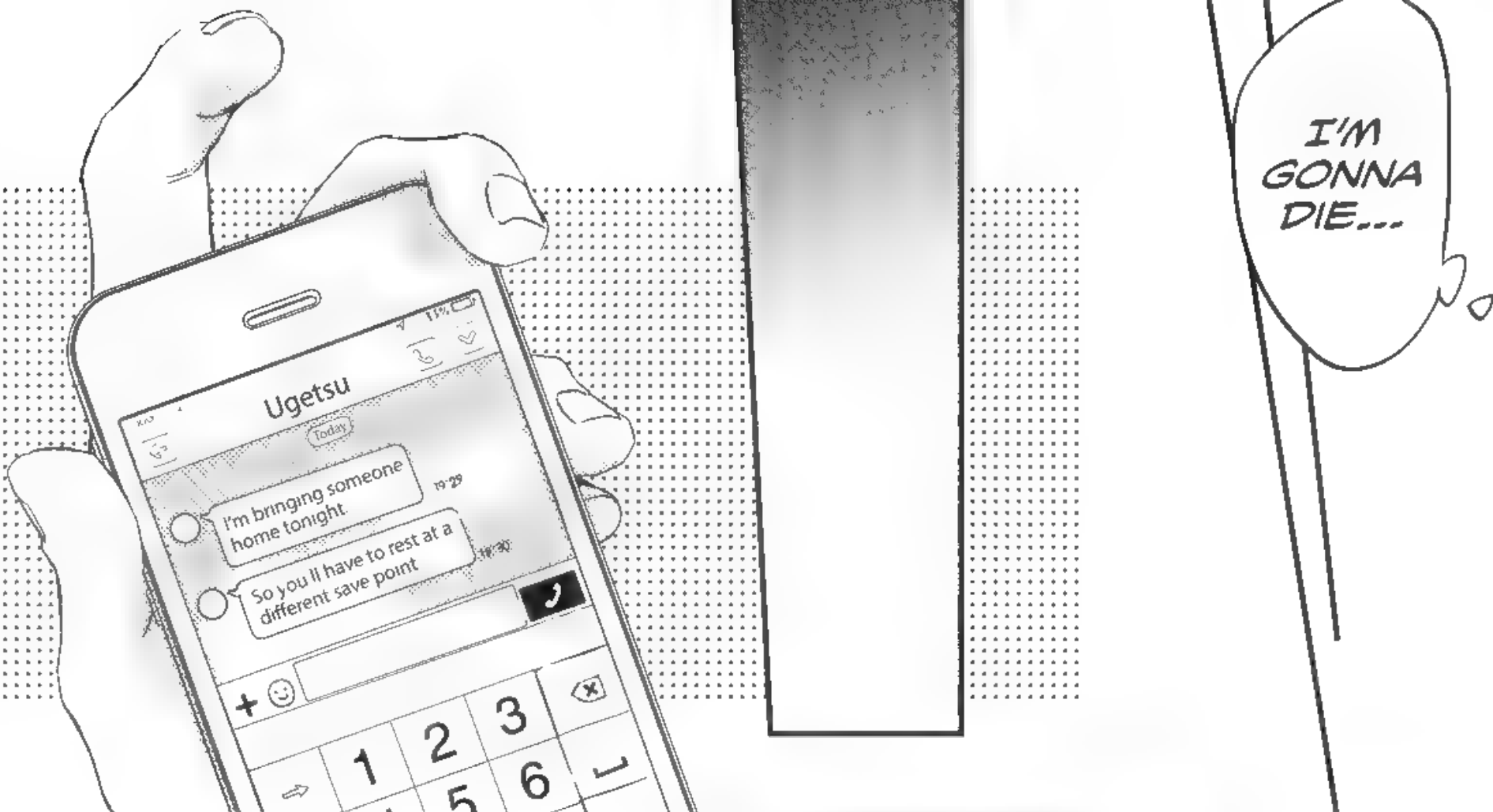




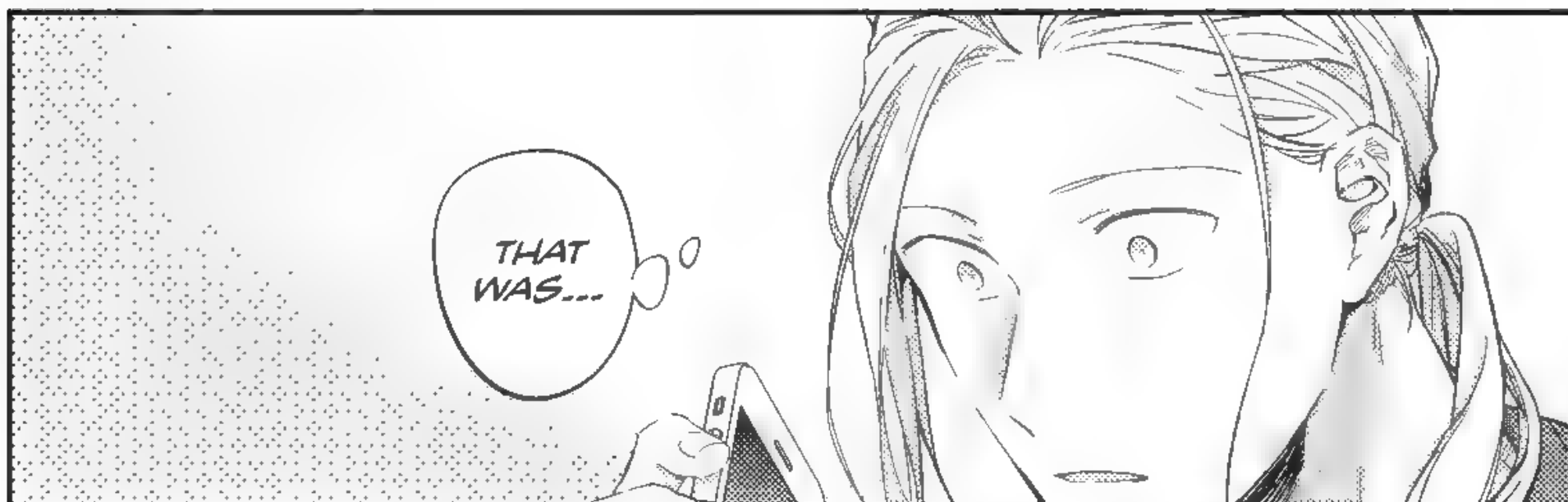


**HE'S
KILLIN'
ME!!**















IT'D
BE A
TEMPORARY
SUPPORT-
ING GIG.

...WHAT DO
YOU THINK
ABOUT
PLAYING BASS
IN ANOTHER
BAND FOR
A WHILE,
JUST AS A
BREATHHER?



...IN YOUR
BAND,
YACCHAN?

YOU
MEAN...



...?!



NO.

UH...

IN
YOUR
EX'S
BAND.

WHAT
...?



given
@given_ssn

Happy birthday to our guitarist, Ritsuka



given

by Natsuki Kizu





...THE FIRST
SONG I
WROTE WAS
COMPLETELY
PERSONAL,
SO...

...FOR
THE
NEXT
ONE,
LIKE...



YOU CAN'T
JUST STOP
EXPLAIN-
ING
HALFWAY
THROUGH!

WHAT
IS
IT?!

sigh
...

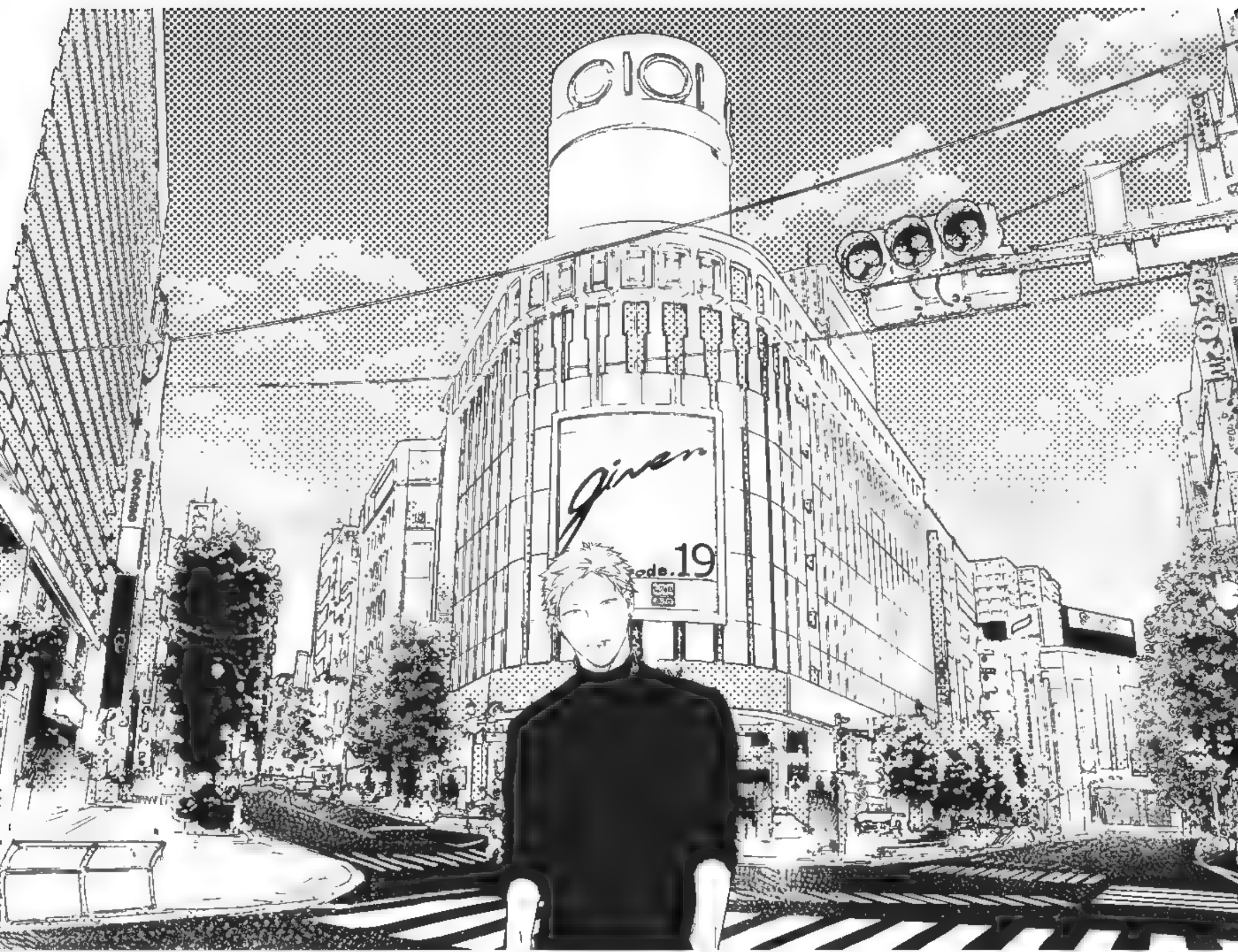


THEN
SAY
IT!

THERE'S
SOME-
THING I
WANT TO
SAY...

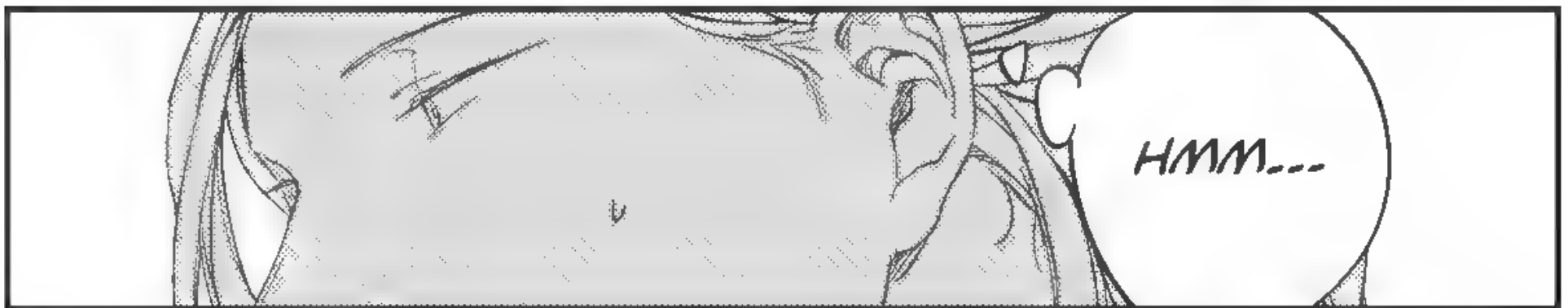
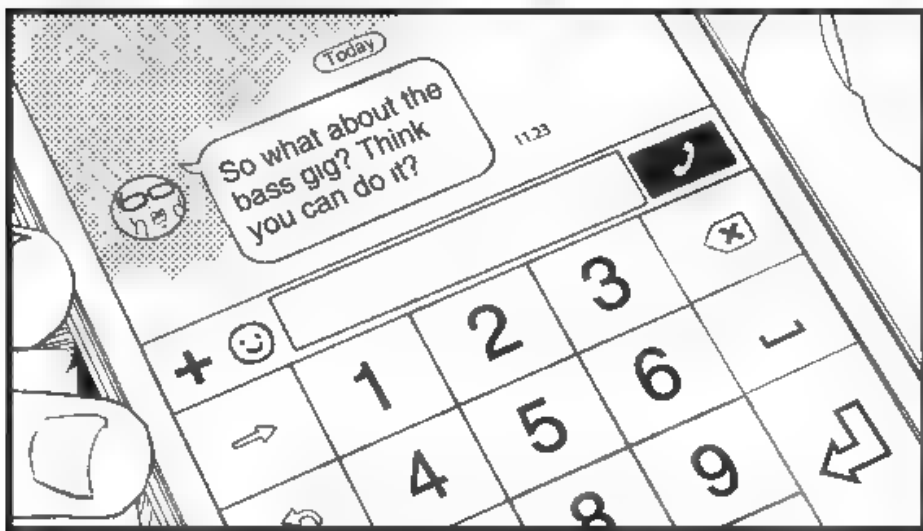
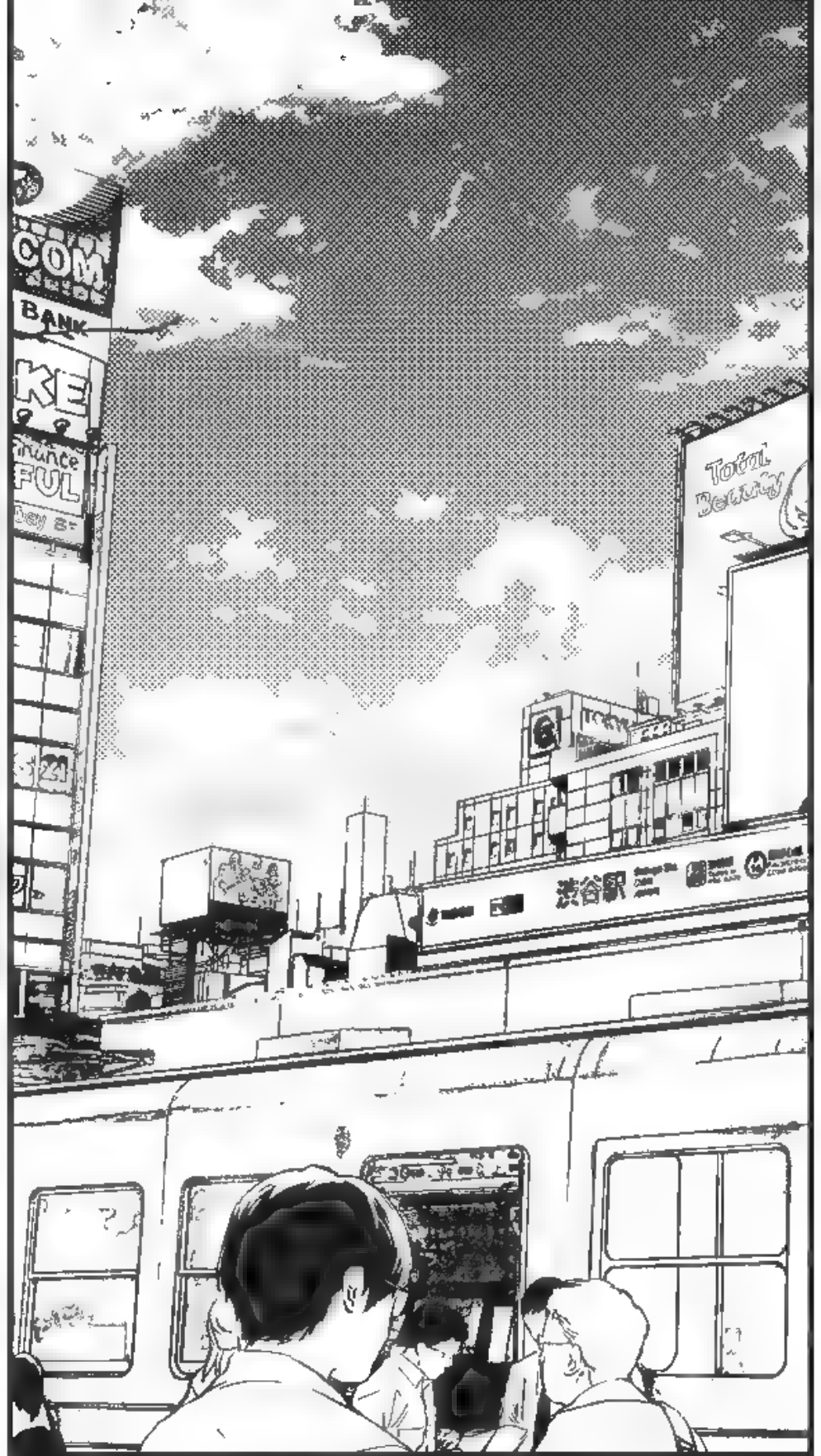
Next
time.

HUH
?!



chapter 19

given



IN THE
END...



I WAS
KICKED
OUT OF
THAT BAND
FOR GOING
OUT WITH
HER!

YEAH,
WELL, AYA
WANTED
ME TO
ASK YOU
IF YOU'D
DO IT.

ARE YOU
CRAZY?!
ROMANCE
DRAMA IS
WHAT'S
SCREWING
UP MY OWN
BAND!

---AFTER
ALL
THAT---

MY EX-
GIRLFRIEND'S
BAND?



MMM...
YOU
MIGHT
BE RIGHT
ABOUT
THAT.

BUT...

WA
HA
HA!

AND IF I
SAY YES,
IT'D ONLY
ADD
FUEL
TO THE
FIRE!

OUR
GROUP
DYNAMIC
IS
MESSSED
UP
ENOUGH
AS IT IS!

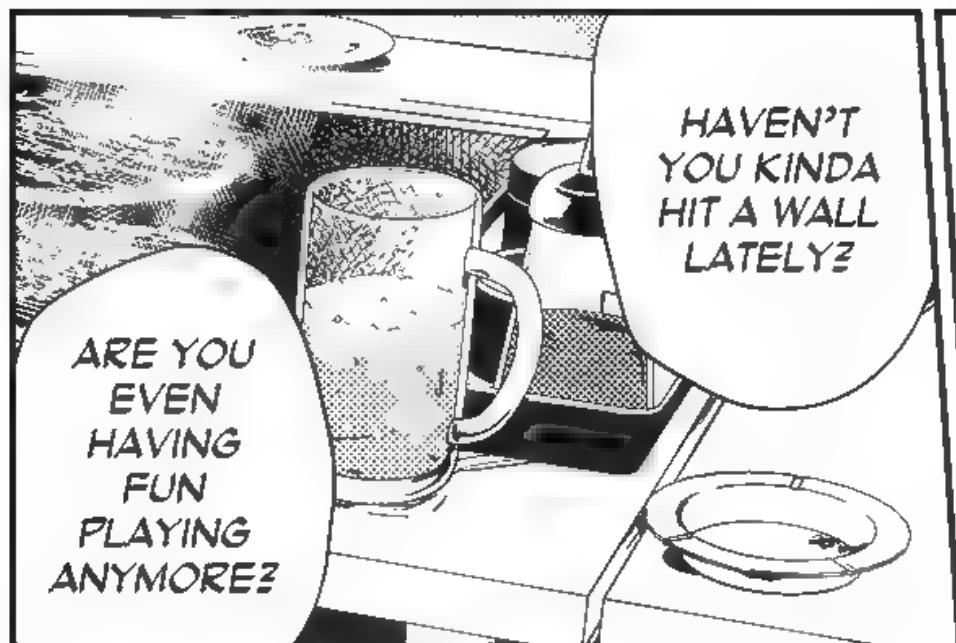


LEMME
REPHRASE
THAT. I THINK
IT'D BE A
GOOD THING
FOR YOU.



HUH?!
WHAT'RE
YOU—

I STILL
THINK
IT'D BE
A GOOD
THING.



ARE YOU
EVEN
HAVING
FUN
PLAYING
ANYMORE?

HAVEN'T
YOU KINDA
HIT A WALL
LATELY?



UH...
YEAH...



STAFF

SHRIMP
PORK
MIXED
CHICKEN



EVER
SINCE THE
THREE
OF US
STARTED
THE
BAND...



SURE...
...I
AM...

I DO
STILL
ENJOY
IT.

*...EVERY
DAY HAS
BEEN A
BLAST.*





I DIDN'T
THINK
TRYING A
DIFFERENT
SOUND TO
"TAKE A
BREATH" WOULD
WORK.

BUT
I...

...SAID
YES
ANYWAY.



BUT I
ENDED
UP
HAVING
FUN.



"GIVE
IT A
SHOT."

"IT'S
JUST A
TEMPO-
RARY
SLIP-
PORTING
GIG."

THAT'S
WHAT
I TOLD
MYSELF.



I WENT
BY THE
STUDIO
AFTERWARD,
MOSTLY
JUST NOT
TO BE
RUDE.



MORE
THAN
ANYTHING
...

BUT THERE'S
NO WAY I
CAN SAY
ANY OF THIS
TO MY OWN
BANDMATES.
NOT WHEN
THINGS ARE
AS MESSED
UP AS THEY
ARE NOW.

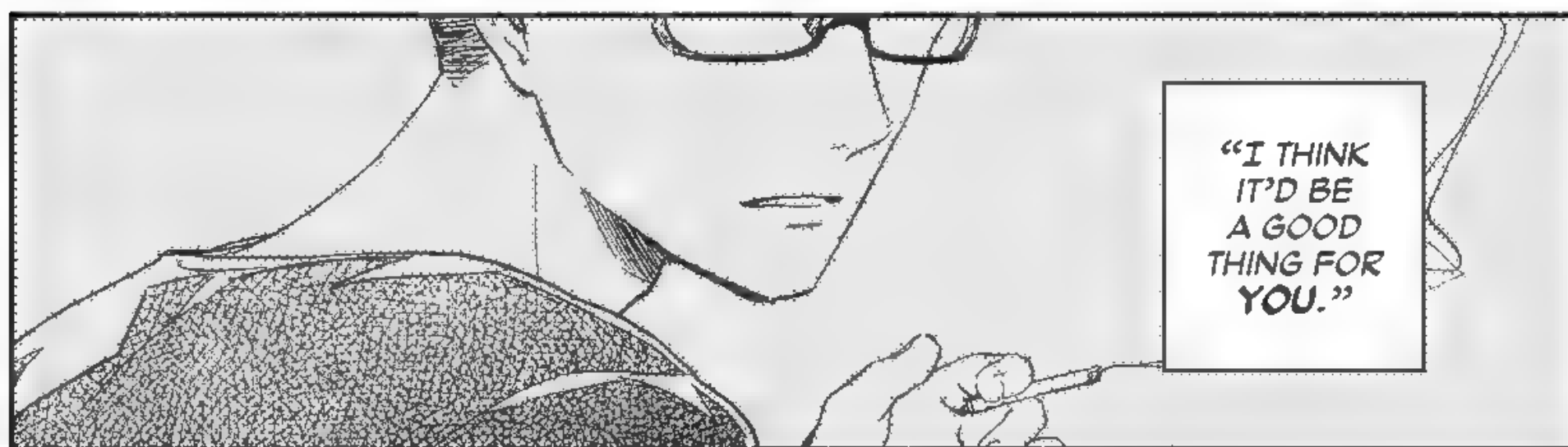




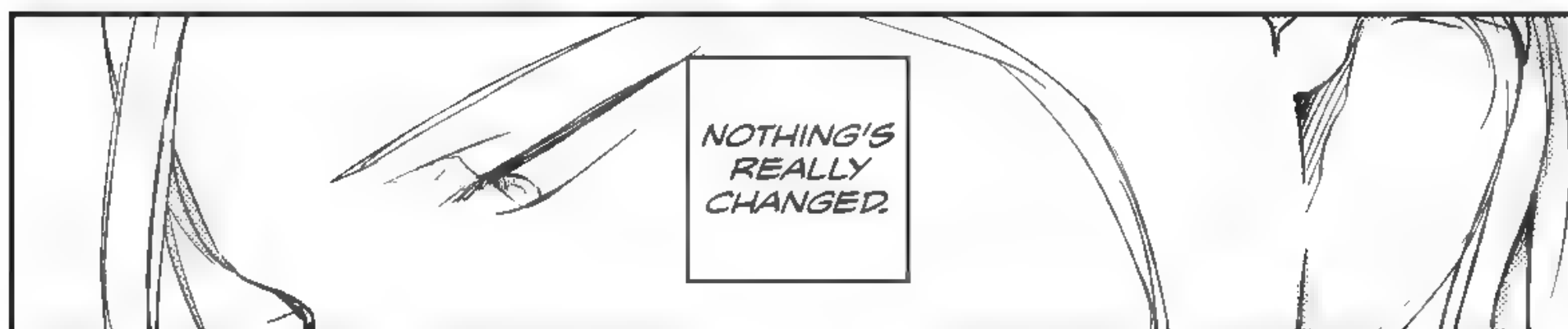
...FEELS
LIKE
CHEATING
SOME-
HOW.

....I
FEEL
GUILTY.

HAVING
FUN
PLAYING
WITH
ANOTHER
GROUP...



"I THINK
IT'D BE
A GOOD
THING FOR
YOU."



NOTHING'S
REALLY
CHANGED.

MAKING
MUSIC
WITH THE
BAND IS
GREAT.

BUT IT'S
ALSO
AGONIZING.



'SLIP?

IT'S
JUST
YOU
TWO?

WHERE'S
AKIHIKO?



KA-CHAK

HEY,
GUYS!



INSTEAD
OF TUNING
UP, WE'VE
BEEN
MESSING
WITH
THE NEW
SONG.

YOU WANNA
TAKE A
LISTEN AND
TELL US
WHAT YOU
THINK?



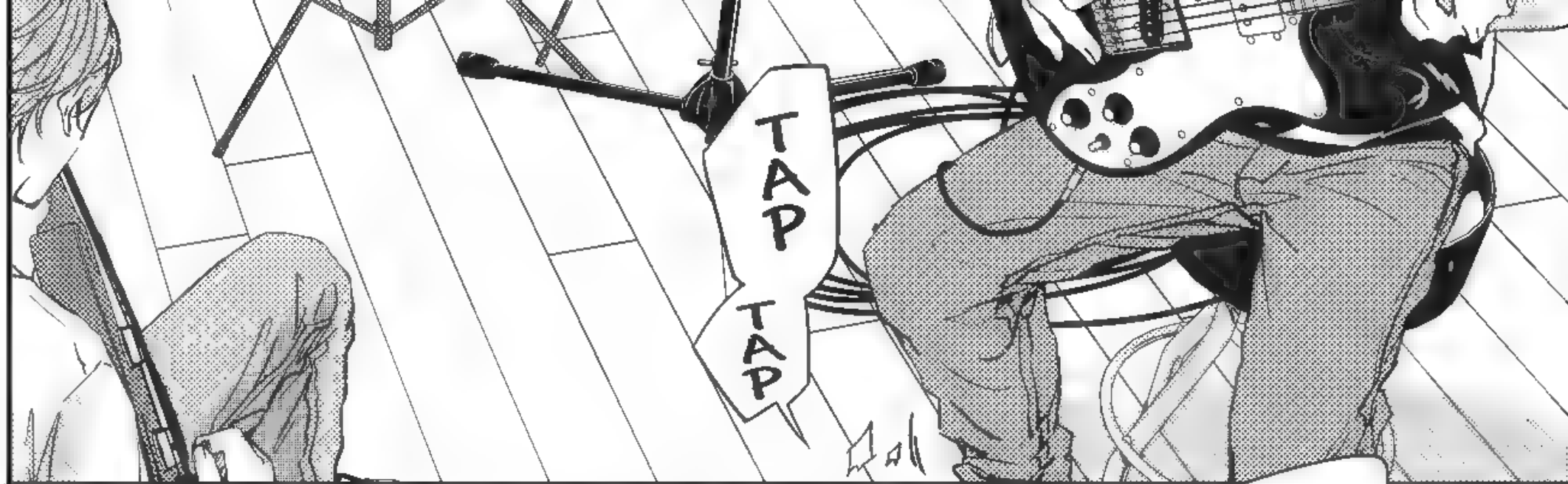
...THAT
HE CAN'T
MAKE IT
CUZ OF A
SCHOOL
THING.

HE SENT
ME A
TEXT
YESTER-
DAY
SAYING



HE SAID
HE'D
PAY HIS
SHARE
OF THE
STUDIO
FEE NEXT
TIME.

"A
SCHOOL
THING"
---?





WAIT...

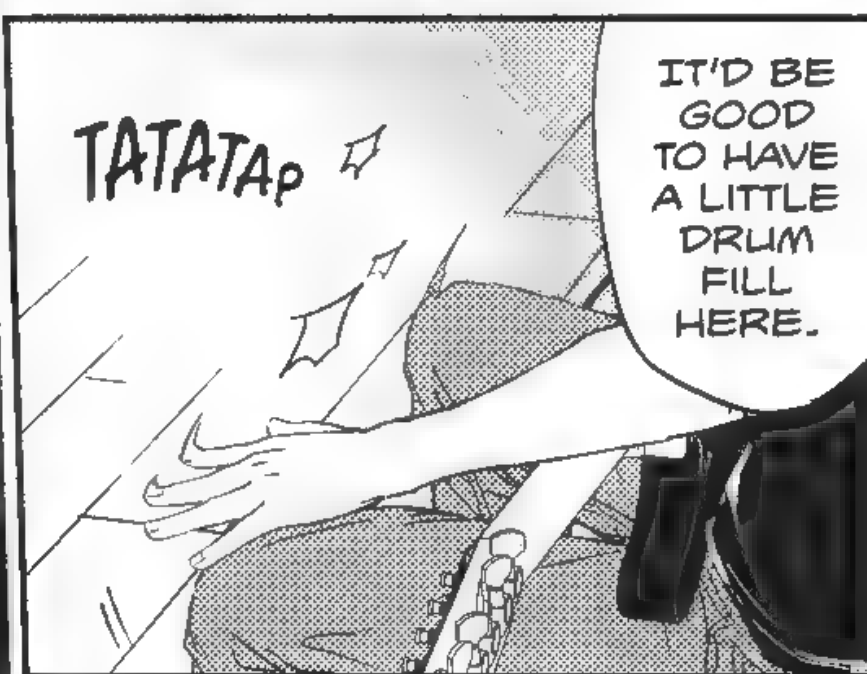
THIS IS THE PART WE WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT, HARUKI.

WHEN DID...



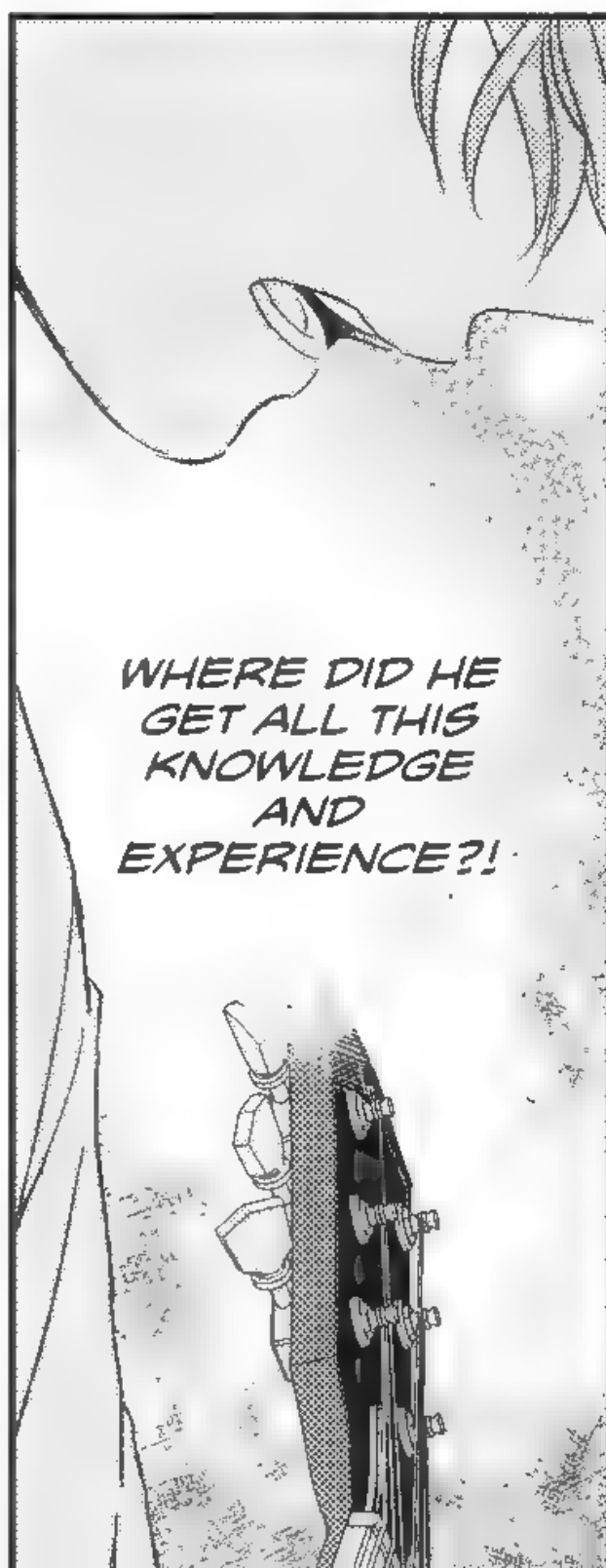
PHEW!

OH, THOSE ARE JUST RANDOM TEMP LYRICS.



TATATAP

IT'D BE GOOD TO HAVE A LITTLE DRUM FILL HERE.



WHERE DID HE GET ALL THIS KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE?!



...MAFLUYU GET THIS GOOD?

HOW DOES HE KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT WRITING MUSIC?



...I
CAN
TELL
IT'S A
LOVE
SONG.

IT'S...

I DON'T
HAVE THE
LYRICS
YET, AND
I'M ONLY
UP TO THE
REFRAIN
OF THE
FIRST
HOOK.

EVEN
WITH-
OUT
LYRICS
...



SO
WHADDAYA
THINK?

MAYBE
"GENIUS"
ISN'T THE
RIGHT WORD
FOR IT...

...BUT...

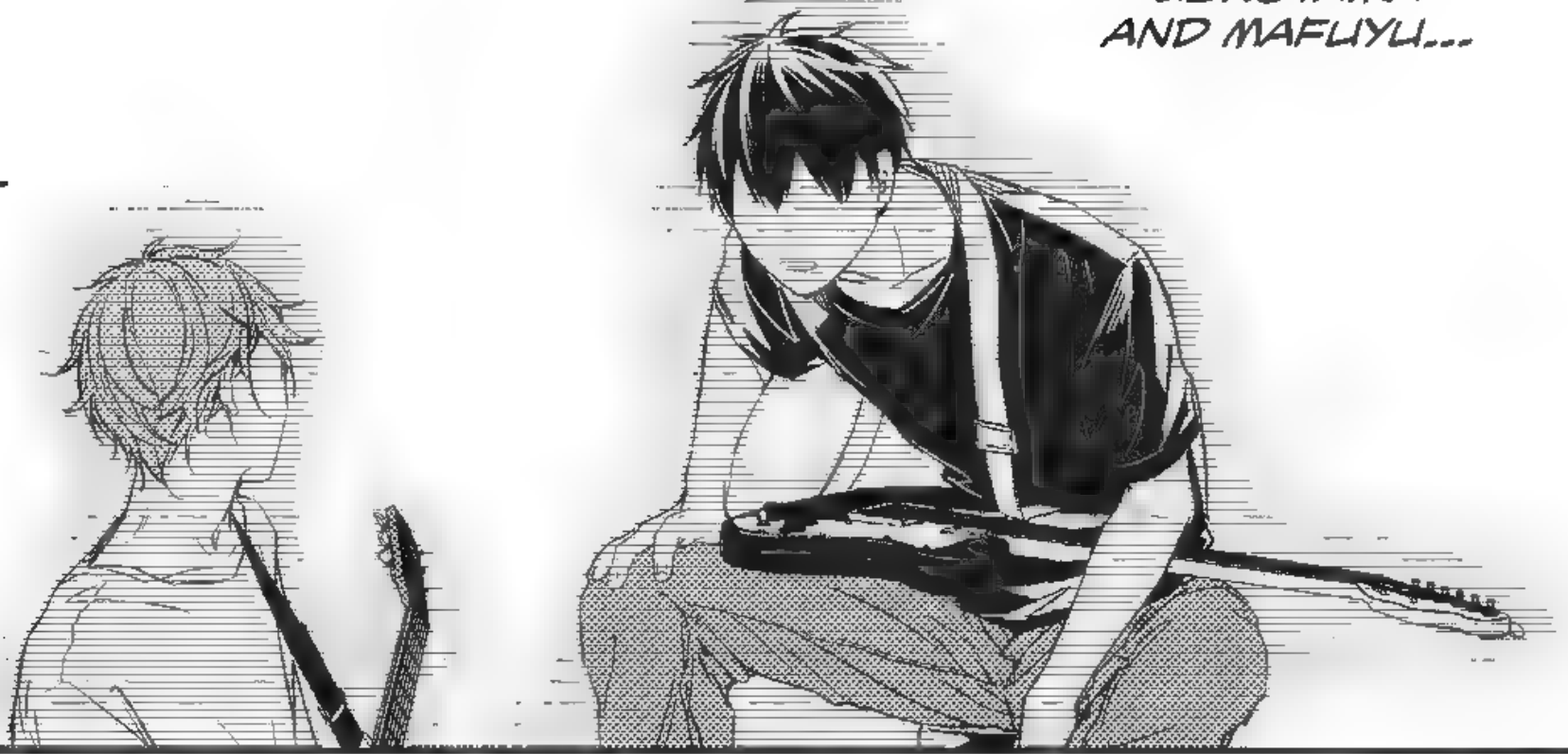
THIS
BREADTH
OF SOUND
COMES
FROM
KNOWING
THOUSANDS
OF SONGS.

AND NOT JUST
KNOWING, BUT
UNDERSTANDING
THEM.



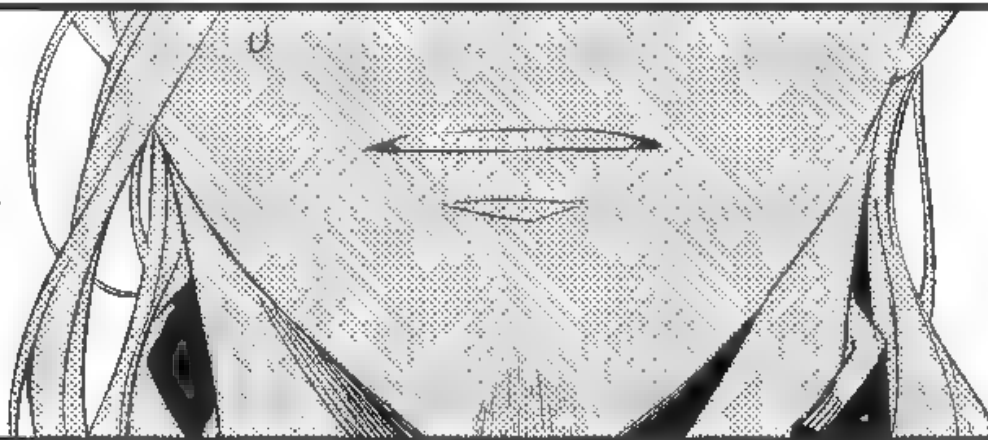
...SOMETIMES
I HAVE THIS
FEELING THAT
KENOYAMA
AND MAFLYU...

...ARE A
DIFFERENT
SPECIES
THAN ME.



...A
FEELING OF
ALIENATION.

AND WITH
THAT
COMES...



DAMN
IT...

THE FINAL
SELECTION
ROUND
FOR THE
FESTIVAL
IS IN EARLY
OCTOBER
...

...SO I
WANNA
CRAM IN
ONE MORE
SONG
BEFORE
SUMMER'S
OVER.

I'D LIKE US
TO GET IN
AS MUCH
STUDIO
TIME AS
POSSIBLE.

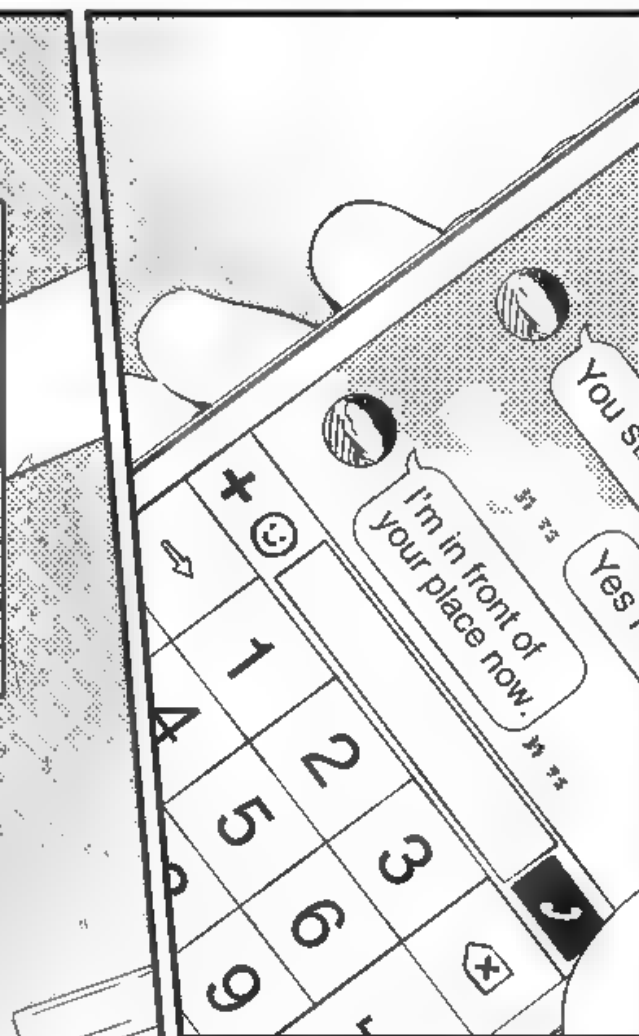
WHAT
AM
I?!







"CAN I
CRASH
WITH
YOU?"











... FINE.

MAYBE
I AM.

"YEAH,
WHAT?"



WHA
...?



YOU
ARE.
WHAT
IS IT?

IT'S
NOTHING.
YOU'RE
JUST IN
A BAD
MOOD.

DON'T
BULLSHIT
ME.



GRIT



BUT I
DON'T
FEEL
LIKE
TELLING
YOU.

SLAP

GRAB

I WAS
ASKED
TO PLAY
BASS FOR
ANOTHER
BAND!

TCH
!

HEY,
THAT
HURTS
!

TELL
ME.

BY
MY EX-
GIRLFRIEND.

BUT THAT'S
NONE
OF YOUR
BUSINESS,
ALL
RIGHT?!





YOU'RE
GONNA
RUN
AWAY...

...EVEN
THOUGH
YOU'RE
IN LOVE
WITH
ME?



TUG

WHAT
ARE
YOU...

...
TALK-
ING
ABOUT
?

WAIT
!

R
A
T
T
L



WHY
ARE
YOU
DOING
THIS?!

K
E
E
E



YOU
KNOW
WHY.

YOU
WANT
THIS,
DON'T
YOU?

given

by Natsuki Kizu



given

by Natsuki Kizu







**I
CAN'T
MOVE.**

WHY?

**WHY
IS THIS
HAP-
PENING
?**

**WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?**



...BUT DO
YOU REALLY
WANNA BE
SCREWIN'
HER WHEN
YOU'RE
REACTING
LIKE THIS
TO ME?

IS HE
FOR
REAL?!

JOINT

!!

!!

HE'S
SO
FULL
OF IT!



I WAS
HAVING SEX
WITH HER
UNTIL I MET
YOU, YOU
CONCEITED
JERK!!



SHOVE

!

HIS
TONGUE
PIERCING...

LICK





VANK

A...

...Kl...

AH!

...

?!

AH...

YOU'RE
NOT
REALLY
GONNA...

YOU...

W-
WAIT...

**AHH
!!**

...GO
DOWN
ON...



DAMN
IT...

I'M
JUST
DOING
THIS...

...TO
GET
BACK
AT HIM.

EVEN
THOUGH WE
BROKE UP,
UGETSU AND
I STILL GET
INTO FIGHTS.



AND SOMETIMES
IT'S LIKE WE'RE
REPLAYING THE
PAST, WHERE WE'LL
GET INTIMATE AGAIN
FOR A FEW DAYS,
AND THEN HE'LL
SUDDENLY SHOVE
ME AWAY.

SOMETIMES
IT'S BEFORE
HE LEAVES
FOR A LONG
TOUR OR JUST
AFTER HE
GETS BACK.

...IT HAPPENS
WHEN HE GETS
A NEW MAN AND
IT FEELS LIKE
HE'S DOING IT
OUT OF SPITE.

SOMETIMES



HE SAYS
WE SHOULD
STOP LIVING
TOGETHER,
WHEN WHAT HE
REALLY MEANS
IS THAT WE
SHOULD GO
OUR SEPARATE
WAYS ENTIRELY.

...TO TAKE
EVERY
CHANCE
TO MAKE
ME LEAVE
HIM.

IT'S
LIKE
HE'S
TRYING



HE
TRIES
TO SET
ME
OFF.



SAYS HE
DOESN'T
NEED
ME.

IT'S LIKE
HE'S
TRYING TO
LOCK ME
OUT OF HIS
WORLD.



IF YOU
DON'T NEED
ME, WHY
DO YOU PUT
UP WITH
ME STILL
LOVING
YOU?



IF YOU
FEEL
SORRY FOR
ME, WHY
ARE YOU
TRYING TO
MAKE ME
LEAVE?

WHY?



I WANNA
HANG
ONTO
YOU,
BUT...

...I
WANNA
RUN
AWAY.

I
WANNA
GIVE
YOU UP,
BUT...

...I
CAN'T
QUIT
YOU.

I WANNA
TOUCH
YOU.

IT
HURTS
SO
MUCH.

WHAT
IS IT?

hahh

HIRO

...?

AKIHIKO

hahh

hahh

hahh

PLEASE
DON'T...



PLEASE
DON'T
LOOK
LIKE
THAT.


hahh

hahh

LIKE
YOU'RE
IN
PAIN...

WHAT
IS IT?

TELL
ME.

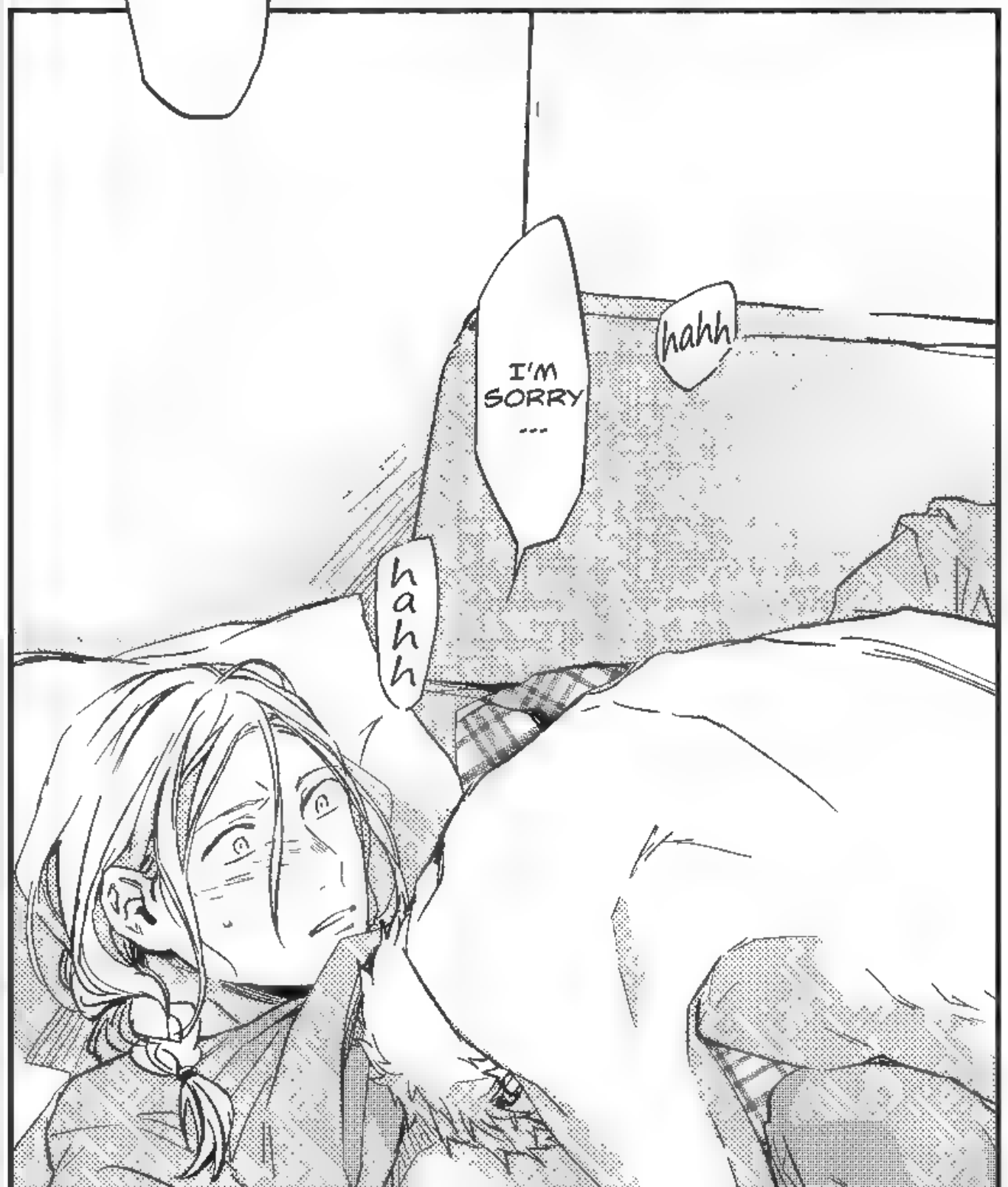


I'LL DO
ANYTHING
FOR YOU.

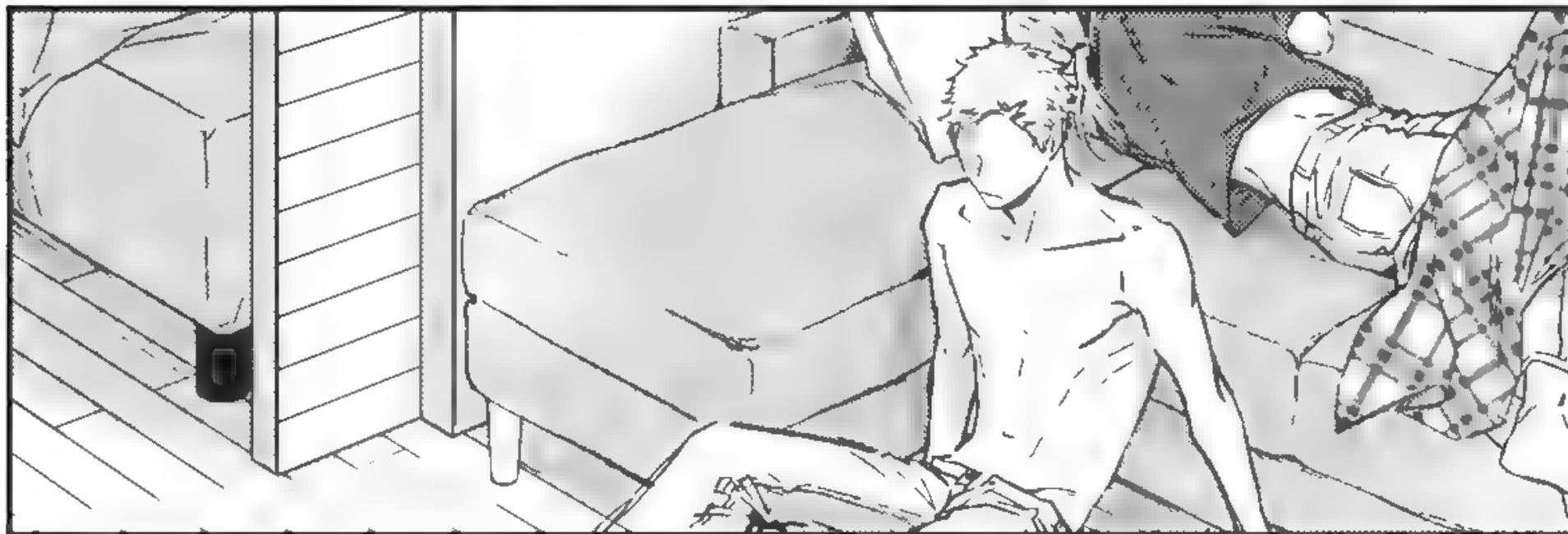
hahh

...WOULD
YOU SAY
SOME-
THING
LIKE
THAT?

WHY...



WHY
COULDN'T
IT BE
YOU?



THERE'S
NO
EXCUSE
FOR WHAT
I DID.

...ON
ME.

THIS
IS
ALL...



I'M
SORRY.

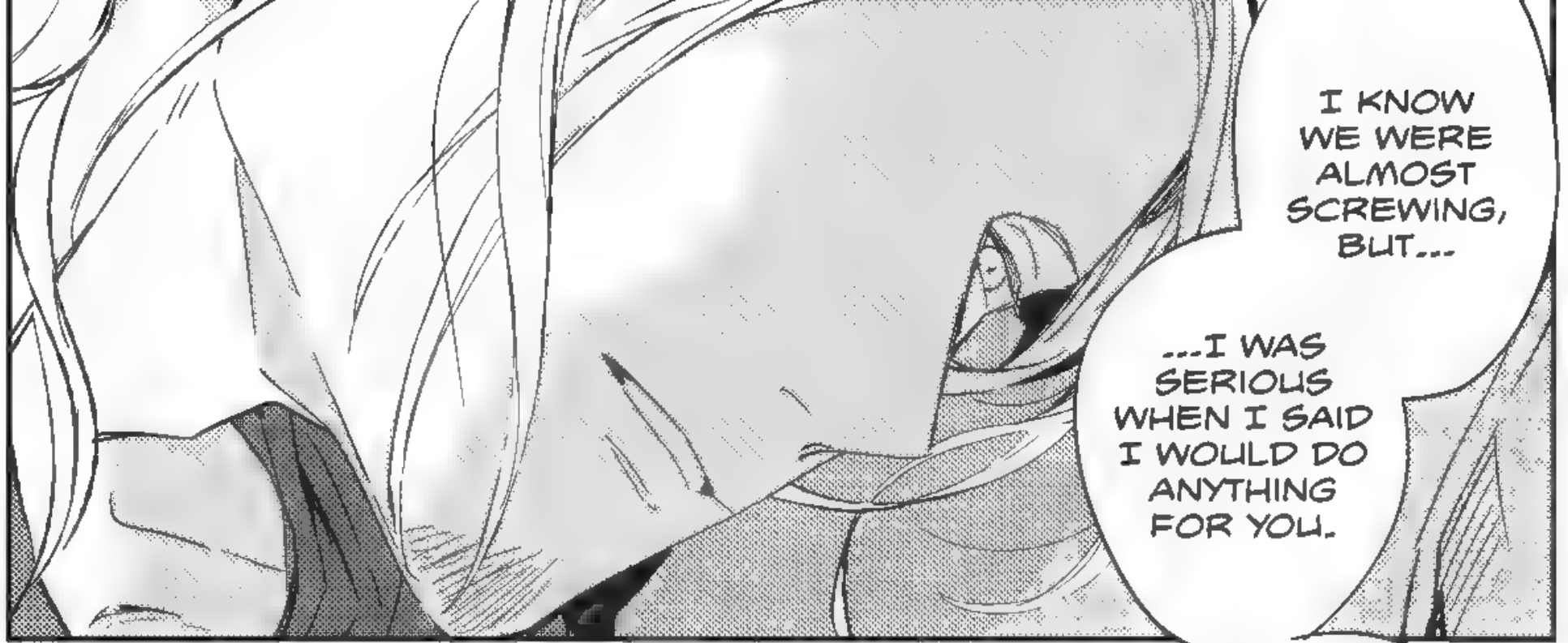


...

"EVEN IF I
TOLD YOU,
THERE'S
NOTHING YOU
CAN DO
ABOUT IT."

...WANT
YOU TO
APOLOGIZE
FOR.

THAT'S
NOT
WHAT
I...



I KNOW
WE WERE
ALMOST
SCREWING,
BUT...

...I WAS
SERIOUS
WHEN I SAID
I WOULD DO
ANYTHING
FOR YOU.



LOOK,
YOU CAN
SPEND
THE NIGHT
HERE.

HUH?



HARUKI
...



I'M
GOING
TO A
FRIEND'S
PLACE.

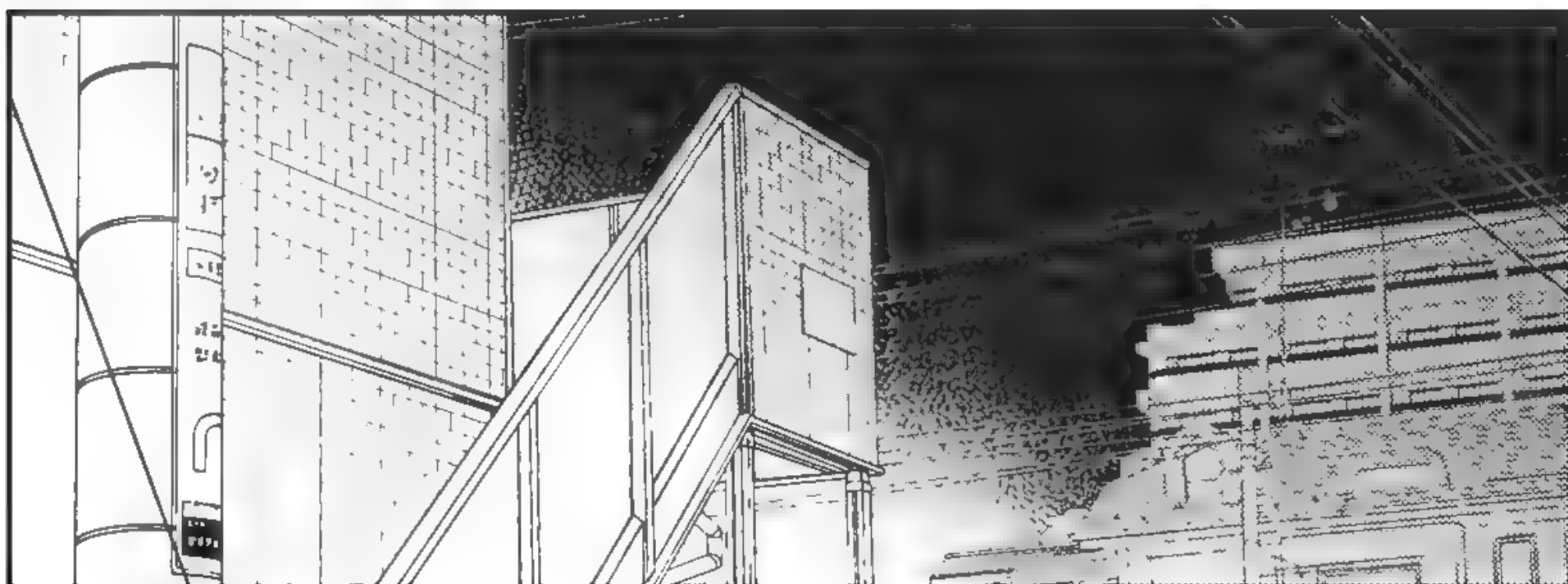
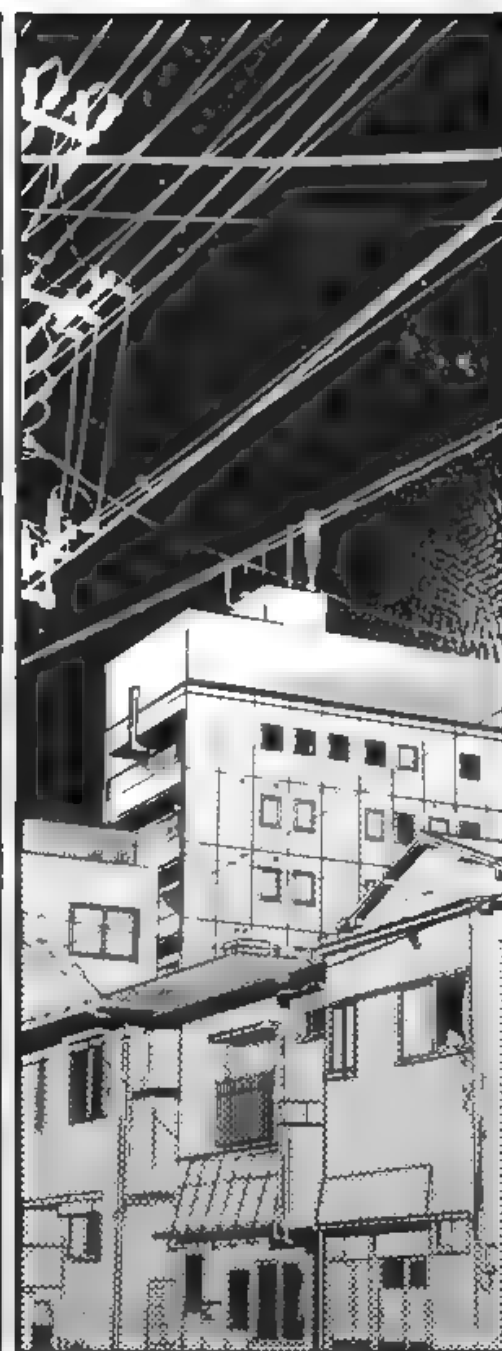
YOU CAN
LEAVE
IN THE
MORNING.



USE
WHAT-
EVER
YOU
WANT.

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
LOCKING
UP.

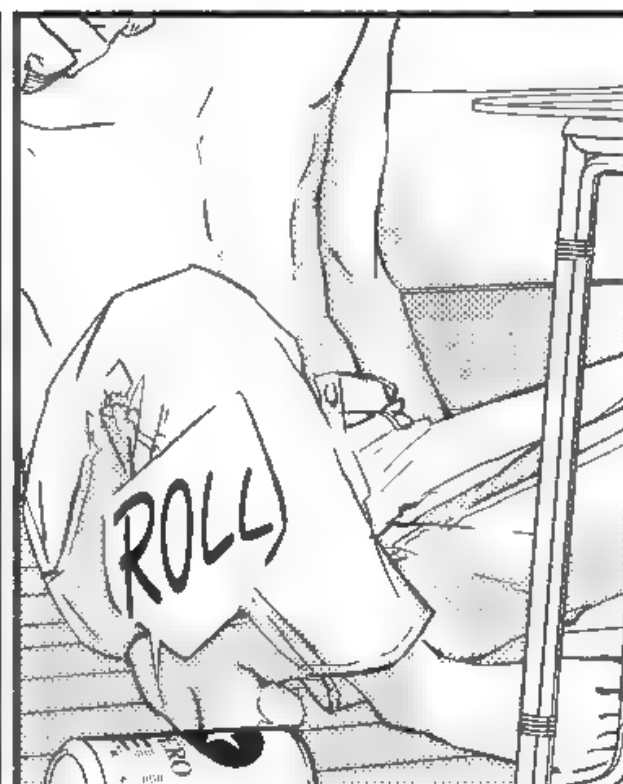






I NEED
TO STOP
RELYING
ON
HARUKI
SO MUCH.

I'M
SO...



THANKS
TO THE
MESS-
UP WAY
I'VE
BEEN
LIVING...

...THE
ONLY
PLACE I
HAVE IS
UGETSU'S
HOUSE.

GOT
NOWHERE
TO GO.

...
FRIGGIN'
LAME.

THEY DUMPED
SOME MONEY
INTO MY BANK
ACCOUNT AND
TOOK OFF.

JUST AS I STARTED
WONDERING WHAT
THE HELL I WAS
GOING TO DO,
UGETSU TOOK
ME IN.

I LOST
MY FAMILY
HOME WHEN
MY PARENTS
SPLIT UP
DURING MY
THIRD YEAR
OF HIGH
SCHOOL.

...EVEN
IF IT
DOESN'T
GET
MUCH
LIGHT.

EVER
SINCE
THEN
I'VE HAD
A PLACE
TO CALL
HOME...

WHENEVER
UGETSU AND I
FOUGHT AND
HE KICKED
ME OUT, I DID
WHATEVER I
HAD TO DO TO
FIND A PLACE
TO SLEEP.

OF COURSE,
MOST
PEOPLE
EXPECTED
SOMETHING
IN RETURN.

I'VE DONE
THINGS SO
PATHETIC
YOU CAN'T
EVEN
LAUGH
AT THEM.

...FOR
SOME
REASON...

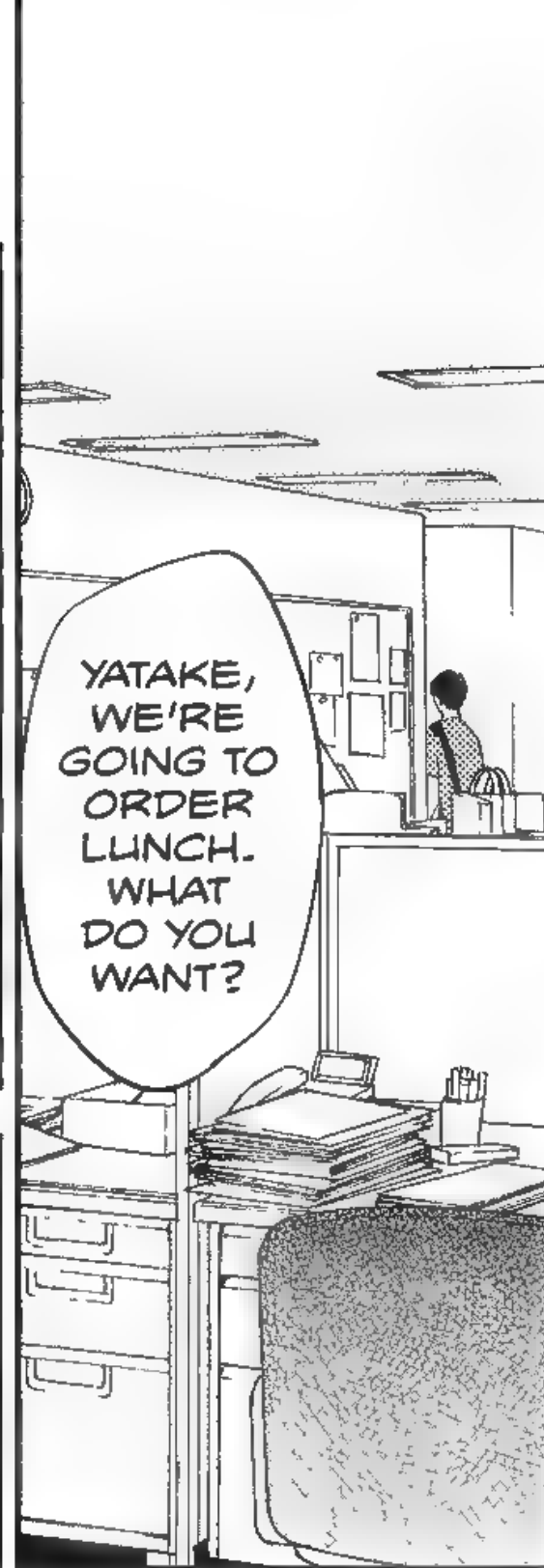
...I DIDN'T
WANT HARUKI
TO FIND OUT
ABOUT THAT.

ONLY...



HARUKI
DIDN'T
COME BACK
IN THE
MORNING.



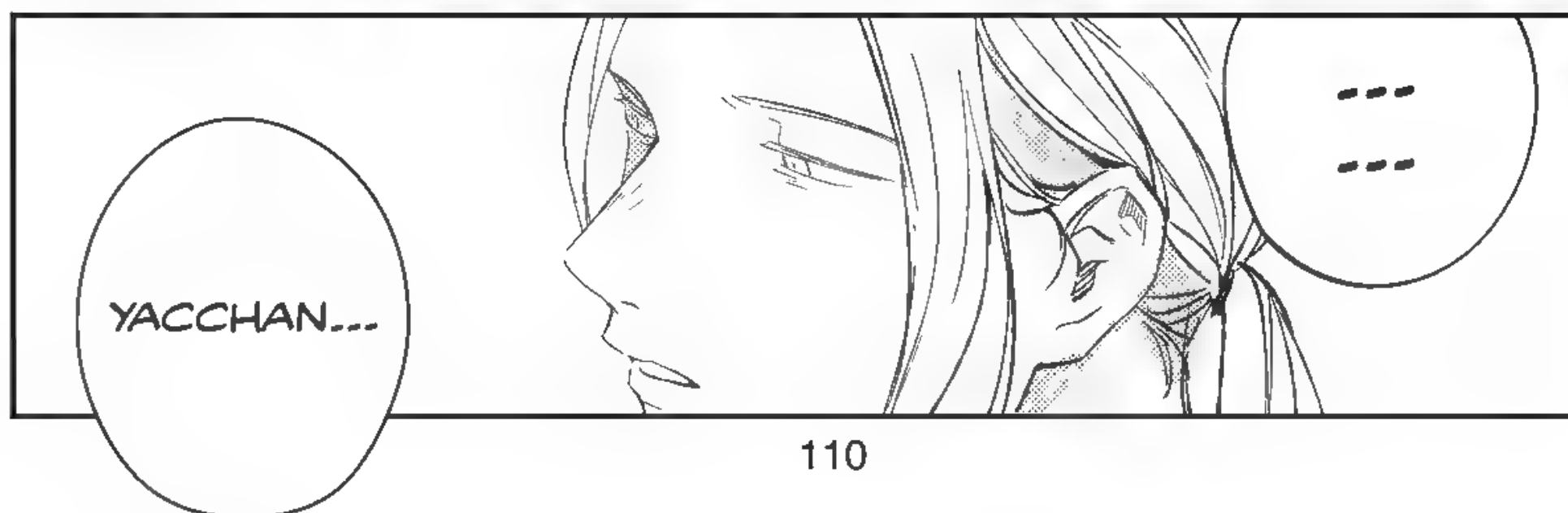




THE

TROUBLE





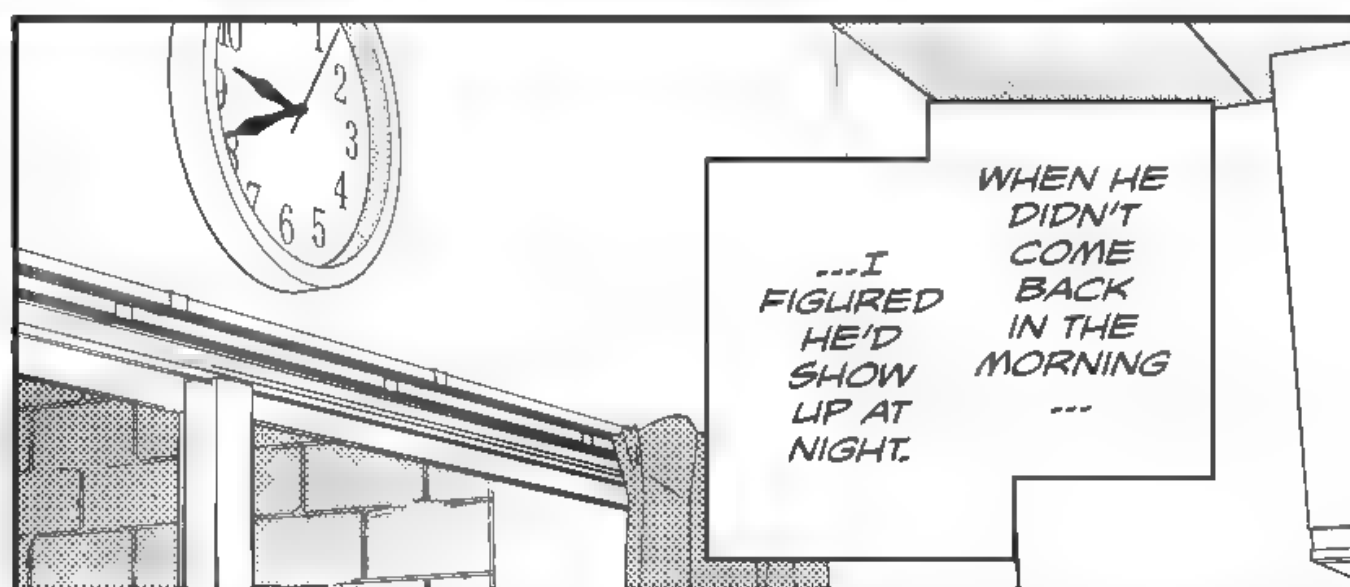
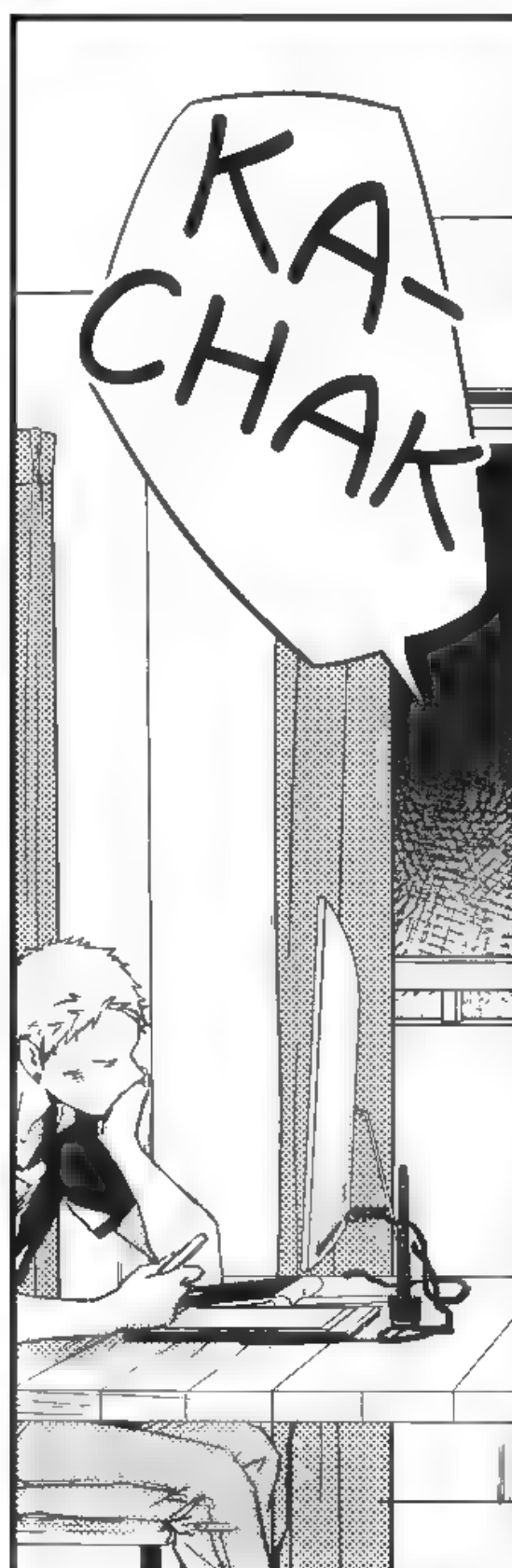
**THIS
IS
BAD.**

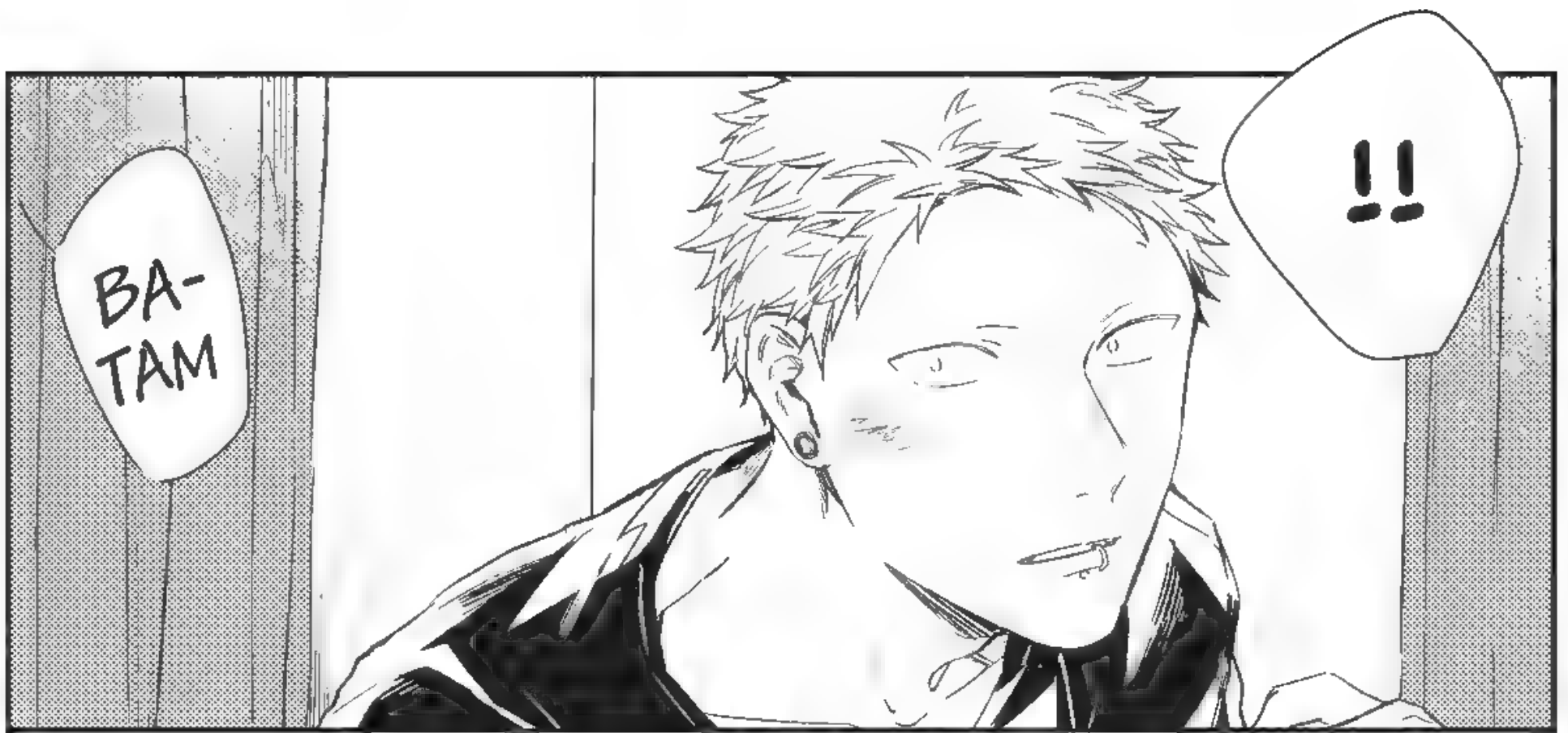


I HAVE
A FAVOR
TO ASK.

...
OKAY?









given

by Natsuki Kizu

given

by Natsuki Kizu

chapter 21

given







Maafuyu,
your
Bangs are
getting
long too.



WAIT...

JUST
GIVE
ME
A...



YOU'RE
STILL
HERE?

....!



SORRY,
BUT AS
I'M SURE
YOU CAN
TELL...

...I'M
TOO
TIRED
TO DEAL
WITH
YOU.

SO
COULD
YOU
LEAVE?



TCH
!!





NO WAY!

UHH...

...BUT IT'S
KINDA
KILLIN' ME,
SO IF IT'S
OKAY...

...I WAS
HOPING
I COULD
CRASH
HERE
FOR A
BIT.



WHAT?

I SWEAR,
I DON'T
HAVE
ANYWHERE
ELSE TO
GO.

I'VE
BEEN
COUCH-
SURFING
HERE AND
THERE
FOR THE
PAST FEW
DAYS...



YESTERDAY,
I WAS AT
THE END
OF MY
ROPE...

...AND
I TRIED
TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE
OF YOU.

THAT
WAS
WRONG.



I SWEAR I
WON'T TRY
ANYTHING.

**HUH
?!**

AND I CAN
SLEEP
ANYWHERE.
THE FLOOR'S
FINE.

I
COULD
DO ALL
THE
CHORES.



PLEASE
HELP ME.



IF WE
DIDN'T
NEED
YOU...

...FOR
THE
BAND,
I'D CUT
YOU
LOOSE.

THIS
COM-
PLETLY,
LITTERLY
SUCKS.

THIS
IS THE
WORST.

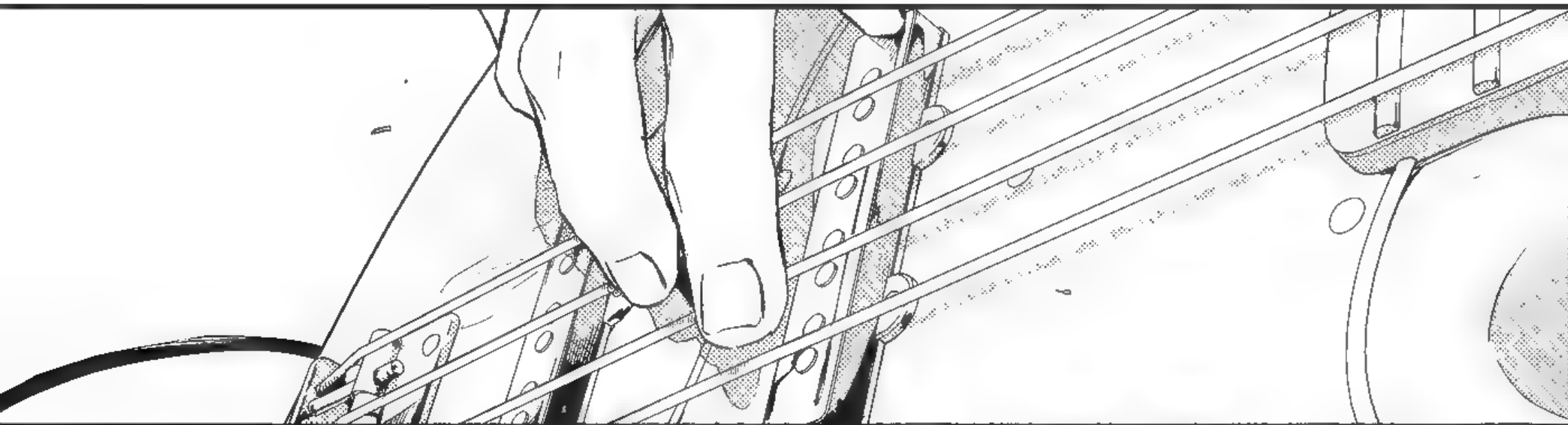
...

AT THE
TIME...

---YOU
SEEMED
SO
DEFEATED,
SO VUL-
NERABLE.

"HELP
ME,"
YOU
SAID.

AND I
CAVED.



I'M SO
PATHETIC.



...IS
TOTALLY
OFF!!



WHAT...

...THE
HELL...?

OUR
SOUND
TODAY...

I'M SO ON
THAT IT'S
LIKE I'M
OUT OF
SYNC. EVEN
THOUGH
EVERYONE'S
TECHNIQUE
IS THERE...

...THE
PROBLEM
IS...

I THINK
I'M GOOD.
I'M ON
THE BEAT.

BUT...





BUT
I'LL
BE
OKAY.







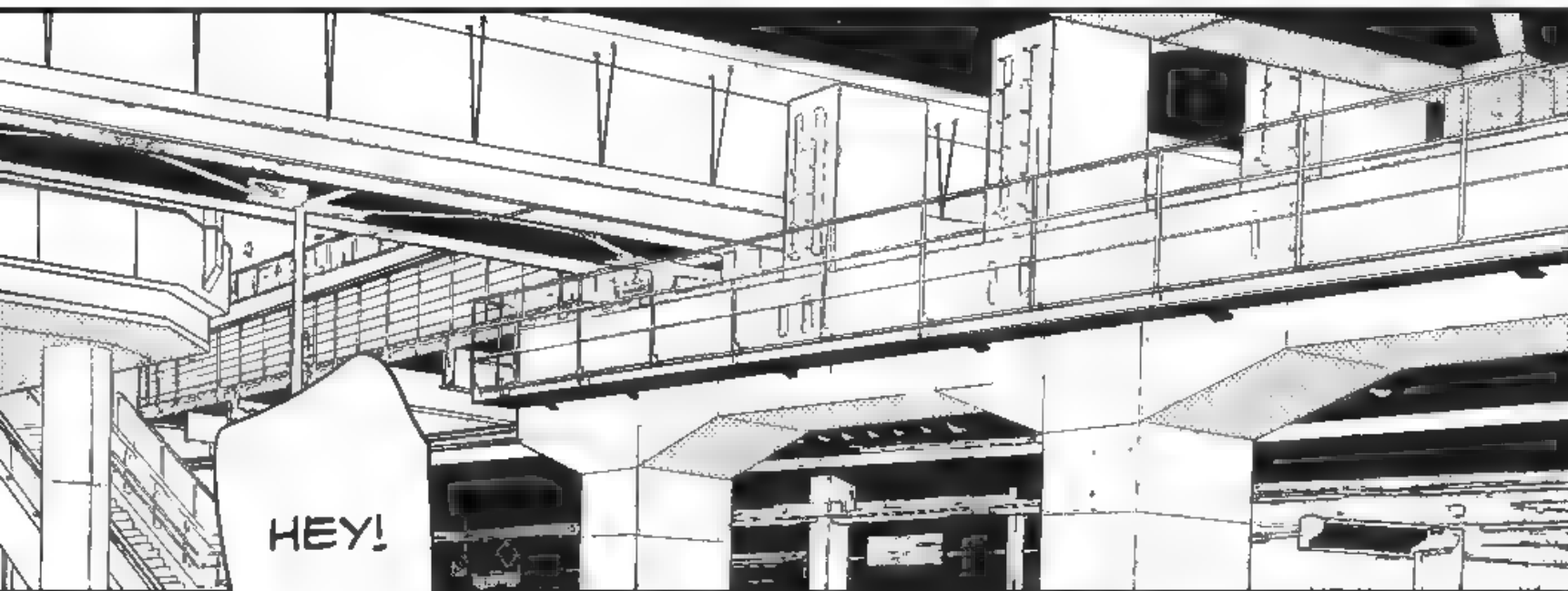
WHAT
WAS
THAT
ALL
ABOUT?

NO
CLUE
...



WHAT ARE
WE GONNA
DO ABOUT
THE NEXT
STUDIO
SESSION?

NO
CLUE...



HEY!





UENOYAMA'S
GUITAR IS THE
DEFINITION OF
COOL.

HE'S GOT
OUTSTANDING
IDEAS AND A
REAL SENSE
FOR THE
MUSIC.



MAFUYU
HAS A
BRILLIANT
VOICE.

AND HIS
POWER OF
EXPRESSION
JUST KEEPS
GROWING.



EVERYONE
ELSE
BUT ME
SHINED.



AKIHIKO
TOO...

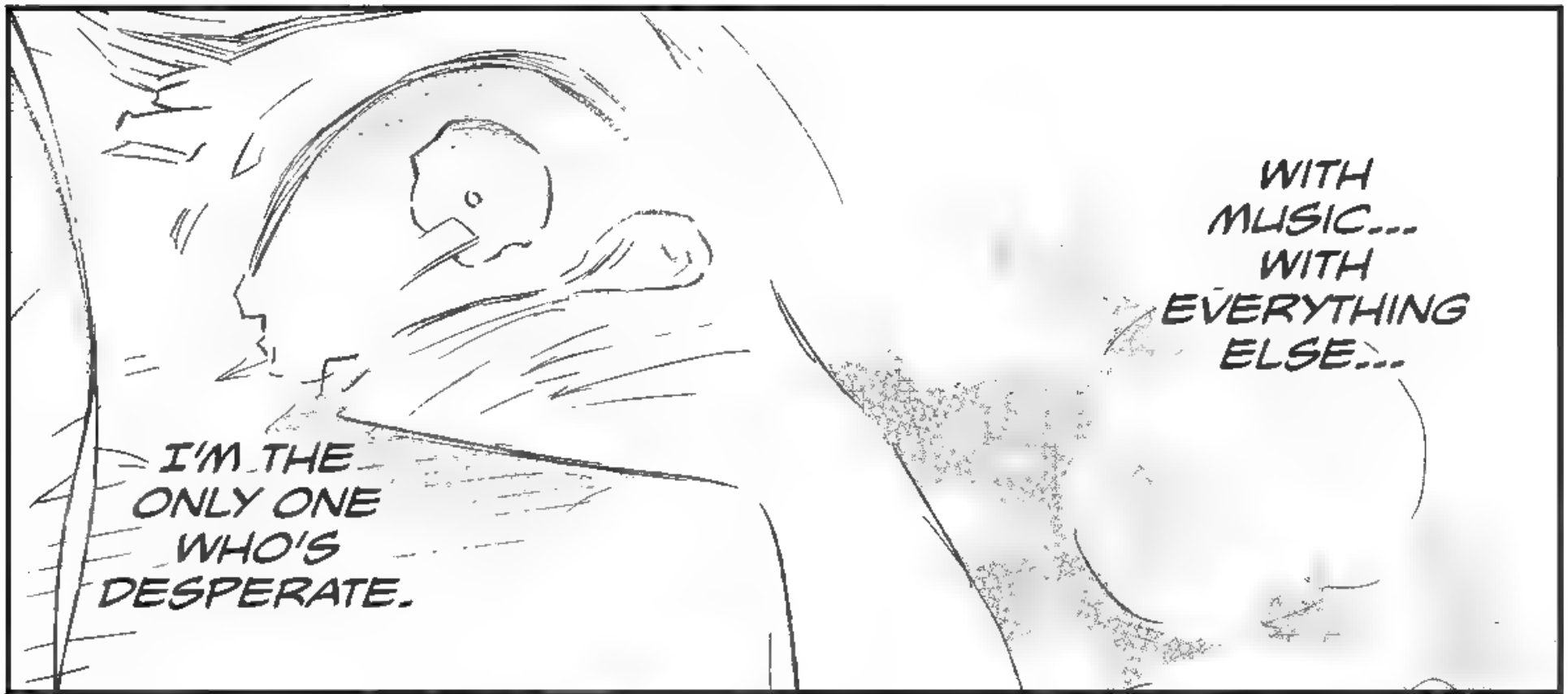
HEY!



IT'S SO
FRUS-
TRATING.

...AND
MAKE IT
LOOK
EASY.

HE
CAN DO
ANYTHING
...





*I WISH
I COULD
JUST
DISAPPEAR.*

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



YOU
COULDN'T
KEEP
UP...

... 'CAUSE
YOU
WEREN'T
LOOKIN'
AT ANY
OF US.



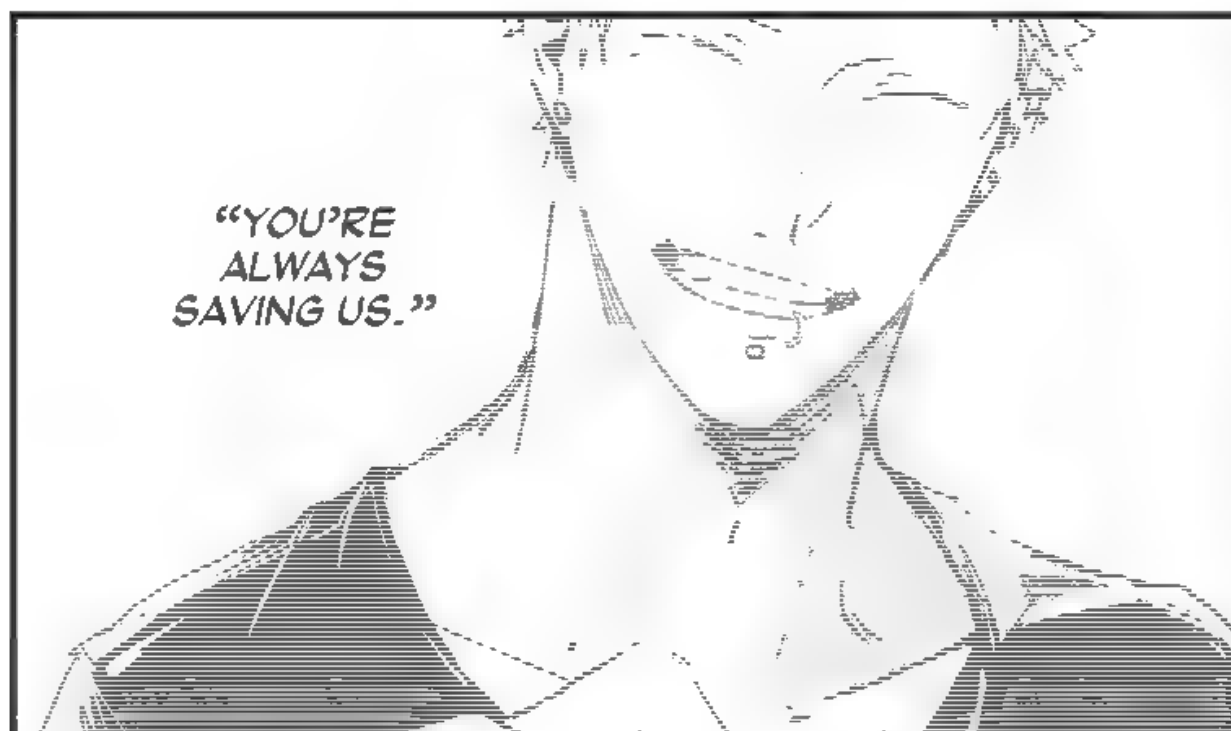
... THEN
JUST
KEEP
YOUR
EYES
ON ME.

IF YOU
DON'T
WANNA
LOOK
AHEAD...

OF
COURSE
YOU'RE
GONNA
BE OUTTA
SYNC
LIKE
THAT.

YOU WERE
LOOKIN'
DOWN THE
WHOLE
TIME
TODAY.





"YOU'RE
ALWAYS
SAVING US."



SOMEBODY'S
GOTTA BE
THE STABLE
BASE THAT
SUPPORTS
THE
PRODIGIES.

AH.



"YOU'RE
THE TYPE OF
PERSON WHO
HOLDS OTHER
PEOPLE
TOGETHER."--



AIN'T I
ALWAYS
BEEN
SAYIN'
THAT?!

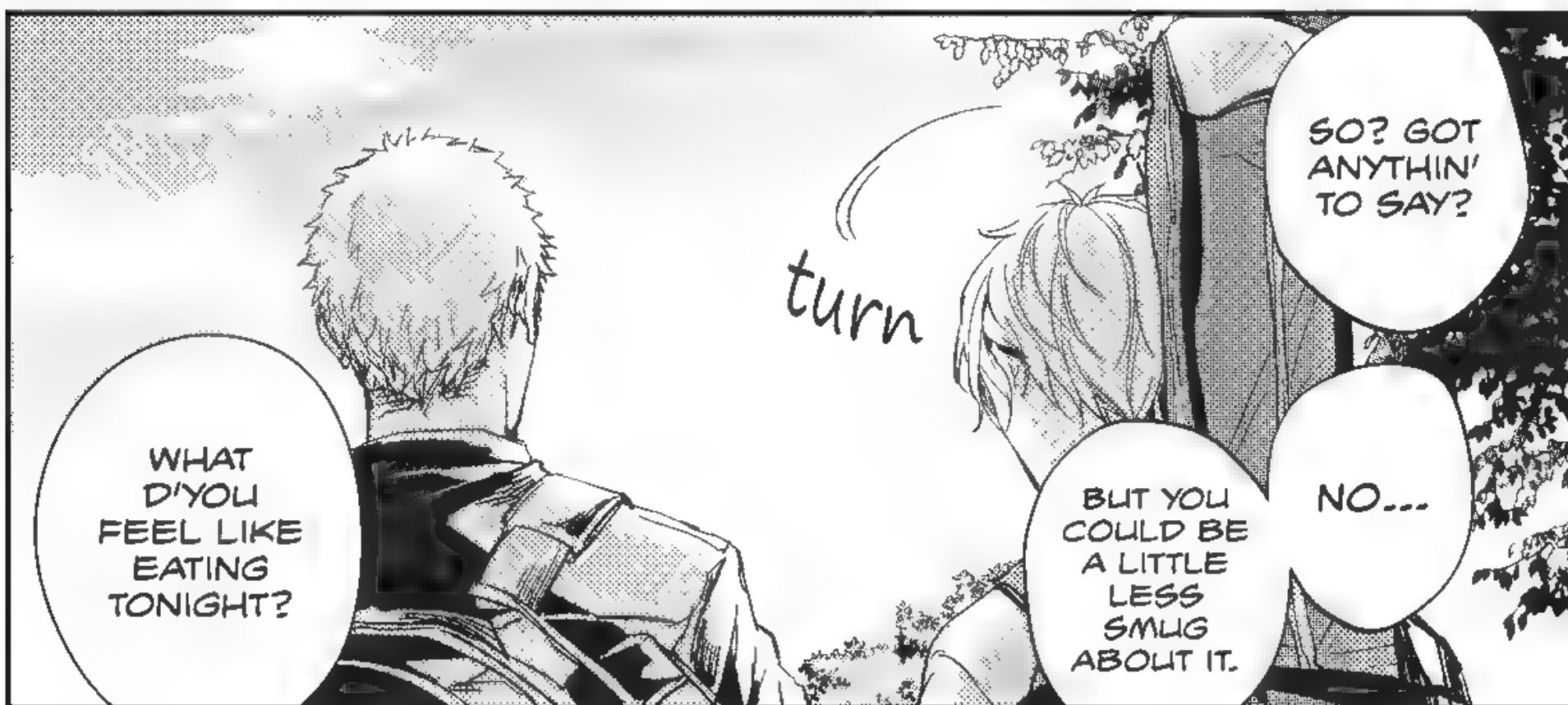


WE
NEED
YOU.

...REALLY
LIKE
THAT?



AM
I...



AND SO
BEGAN OUR
STRANGE
EXISTENCE AS
ROOMMATES.



BUT THEN
AKIHIKO
HIMSELF...

...HAILED
ME OUT
OF THAT
AGONIZING
PLACE.



I'D BEEN
PLUNGED
INTO THE
DEPTHS OF
DESPAIR
BECAUSE
OF AKIHIKO.



...MY
ANGER
WAS
NEUTRAL-
IZED, LIKE
POISON
DRAWN
FROM A
WOUND.

FROM
THAT
POINT ON,
SOME-
HOW...





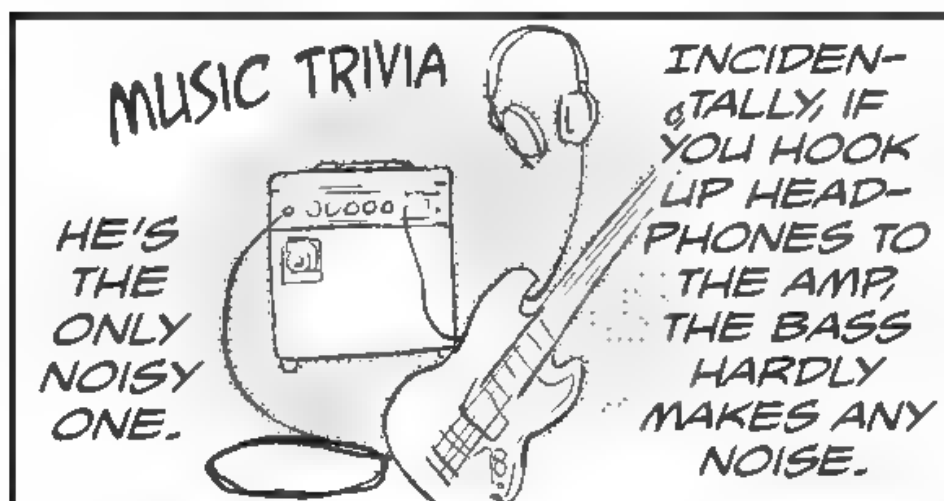
BUT
EVEN
MUTED,
IT'S
STILL
PRETTY
LOUD.

THE
APARTMENT
IS SOUND-
RESISTANT,
BUT I FEEL
LIKE WE'RE
HITTING THE
LIMIT.



HE
PRACTICES
THE DRUMS
AT NIGHT...

...AND THE
VIOLIN IN THE
AFTERNOON,
WITH THE
MUTE ON.



MUSIC TRIVIA

HE'S
THE
ONLY
NOISY
ONE.

INCIDEN-
TALLY, IF
YOU HOOK
UP HEAD-
PHONES TO
THE AMP,
THE BASS
HARDLY
MAKES ANY
NOISE.



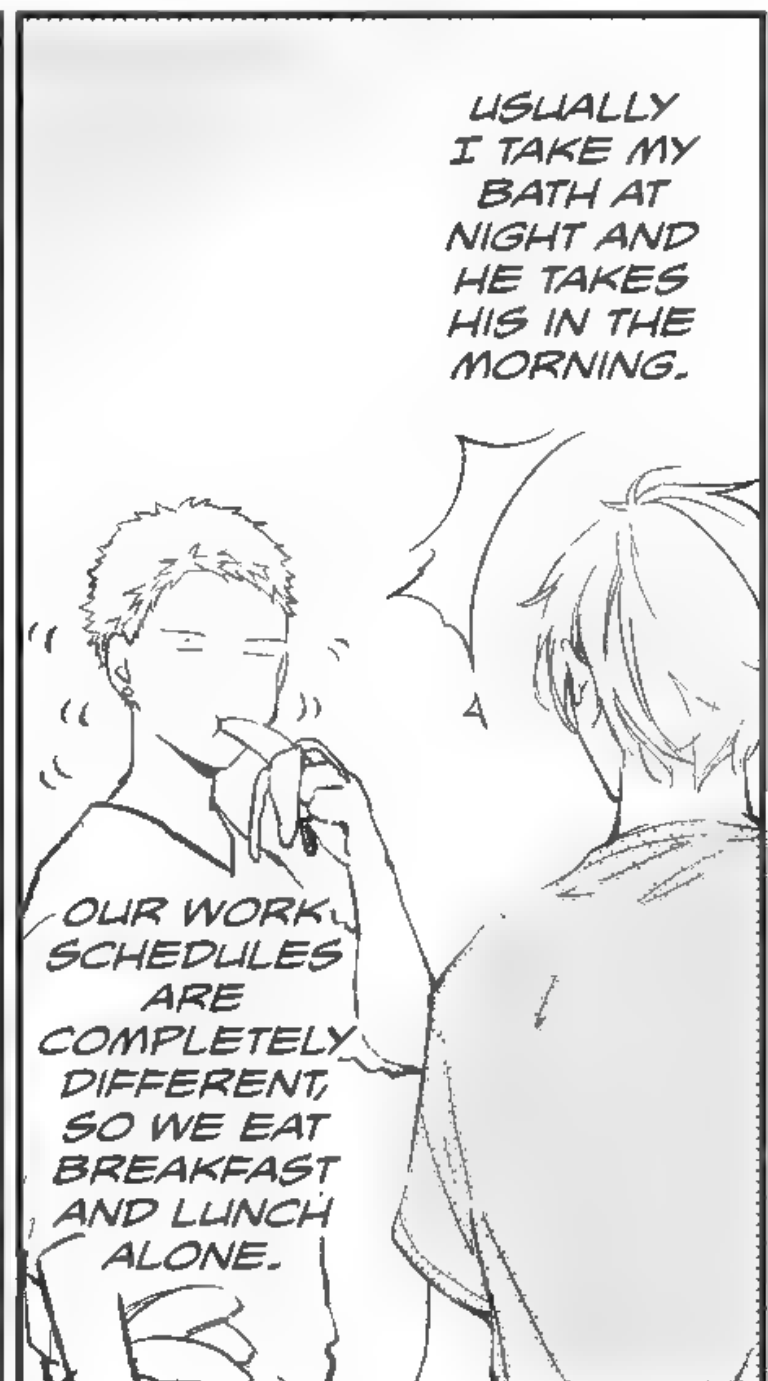
FRIED
RICE
AGAIN...

...DOES
AKIHIKO
SHOW
OFF HIS
DIE-HARD
MANLY
COOKING
SKILLS.



ONLY AT
DINNER...

I'M
HOME!



USUALLY
I TAKE MY
BATH AT
NIGHT AND
HE TAKES
HIS IN THE
MORNING.

OUR WORK
SCHEDULES
ARE
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT,
SO WE EAT
BREAKFAST
AND LUNCH
ALONE.



HUH?

REALLY?

DID
SOMETHING
HAPPEN?



LATELY THE
BASS AND
DRUMS ARE
IN PERFECT
SYNC.



NOPE,
NOTHING!

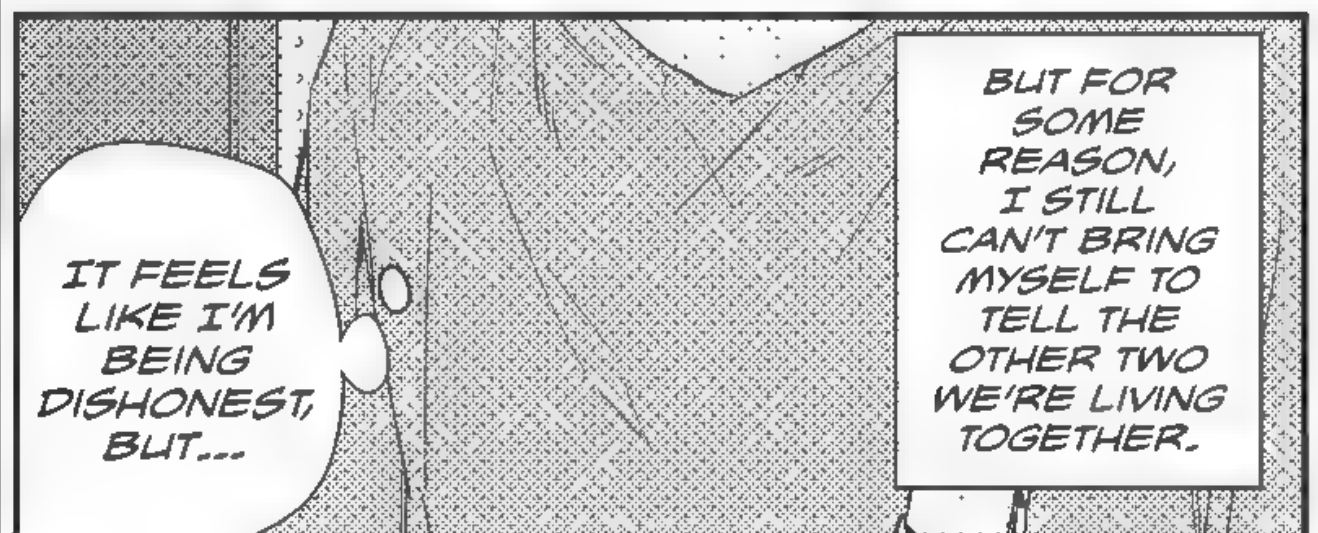


TO KEEP
THINGS
ON THE
DOWNLOW,
WE LEAVE
FOR
HOME AT
DIFFERENT
TIMES AFTER
PRACTICE.



---NOTHING
MORE TO
IT THAN
THAT.

THERE'S
REALLY

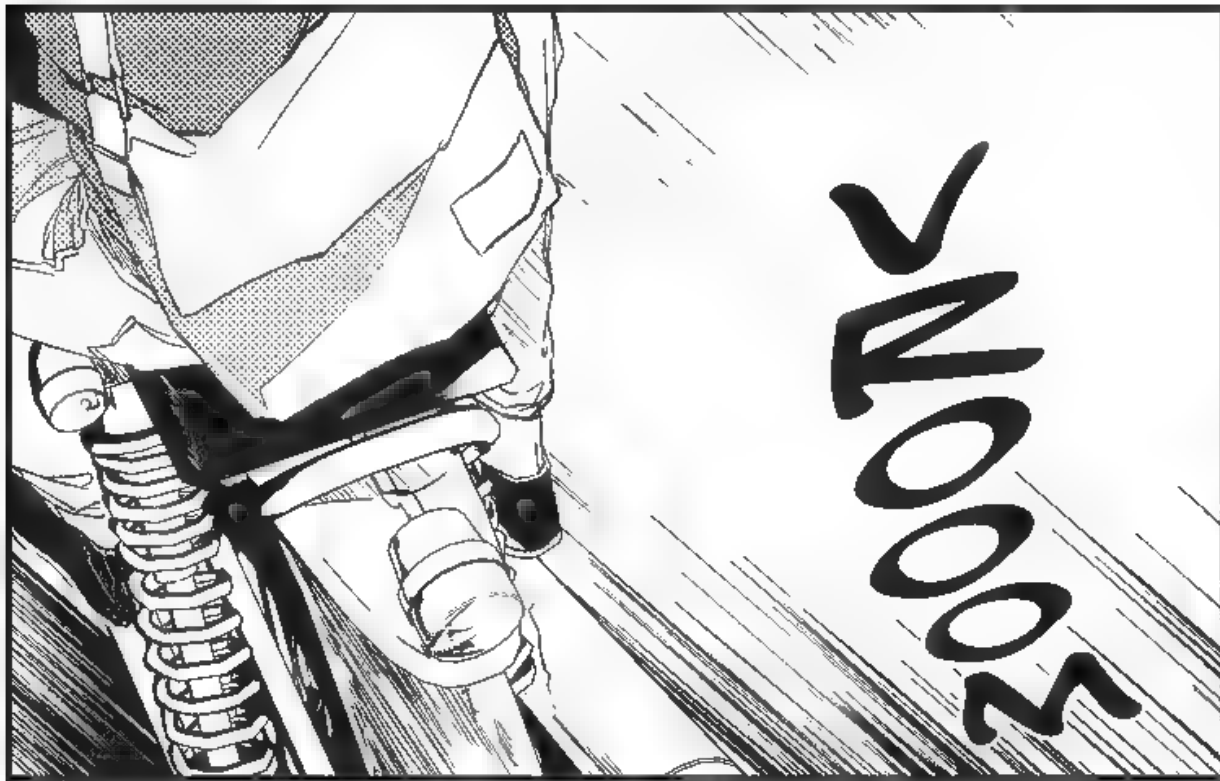


IT FEELS
LIKE I'M
BEING
DISHONEST,
BUT...

BUT FOR
SOME
REASON,
I STILL
CAN'T BRING
MYSELF TO
TELL THE
OTHER TWO
WE'RE LIVING
TOGETHER.



BUT
SOME-
TIMES...



WANT A
LIFT?

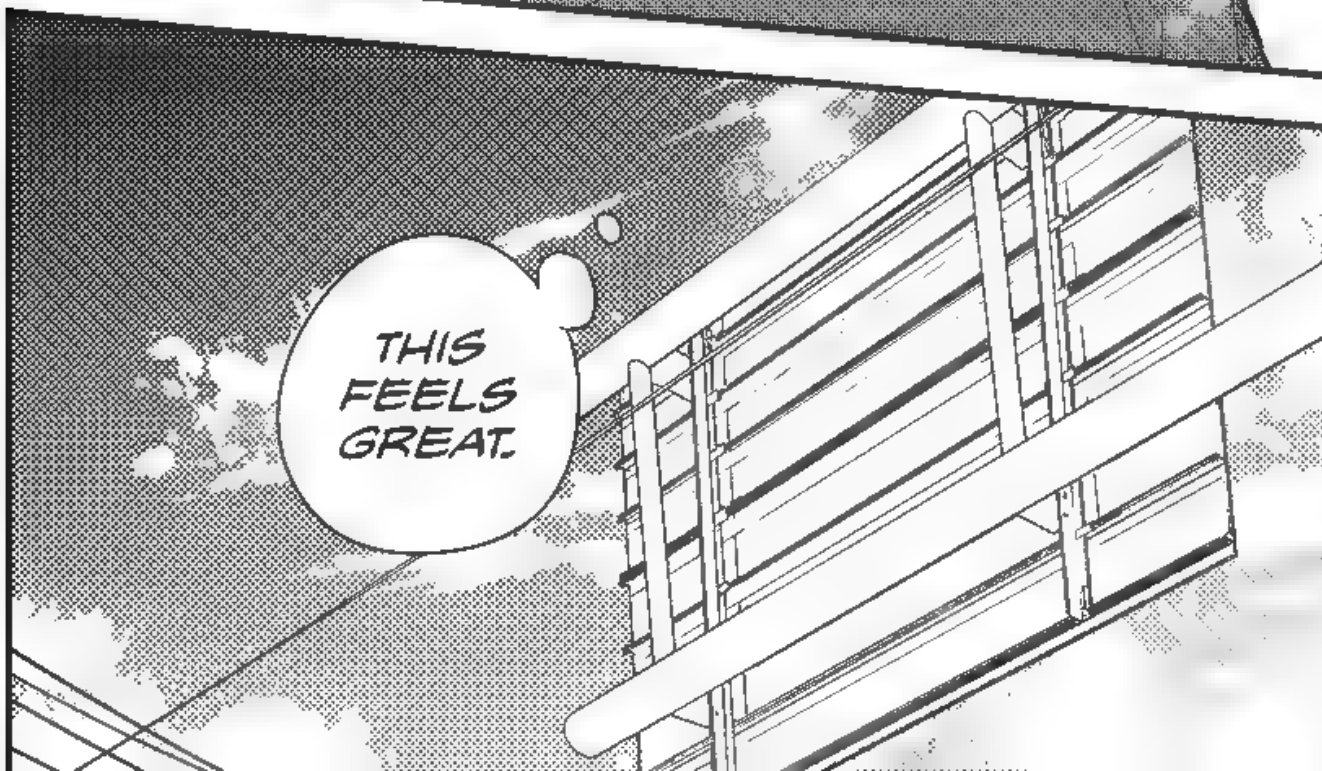


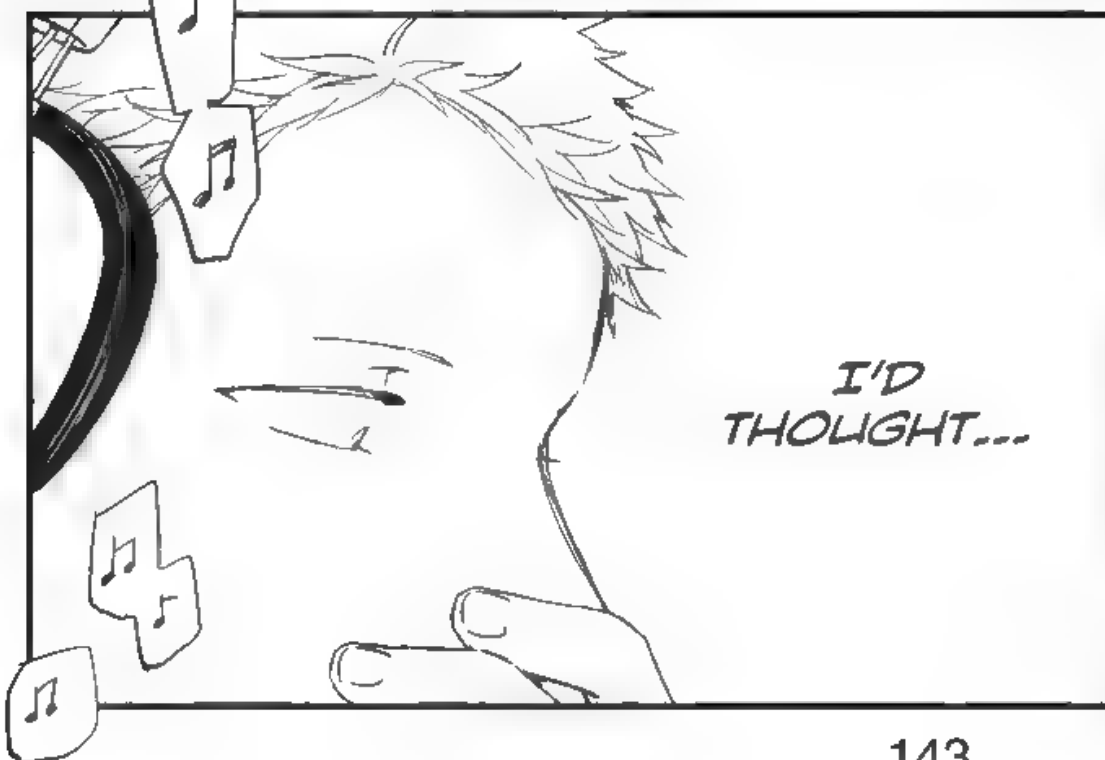
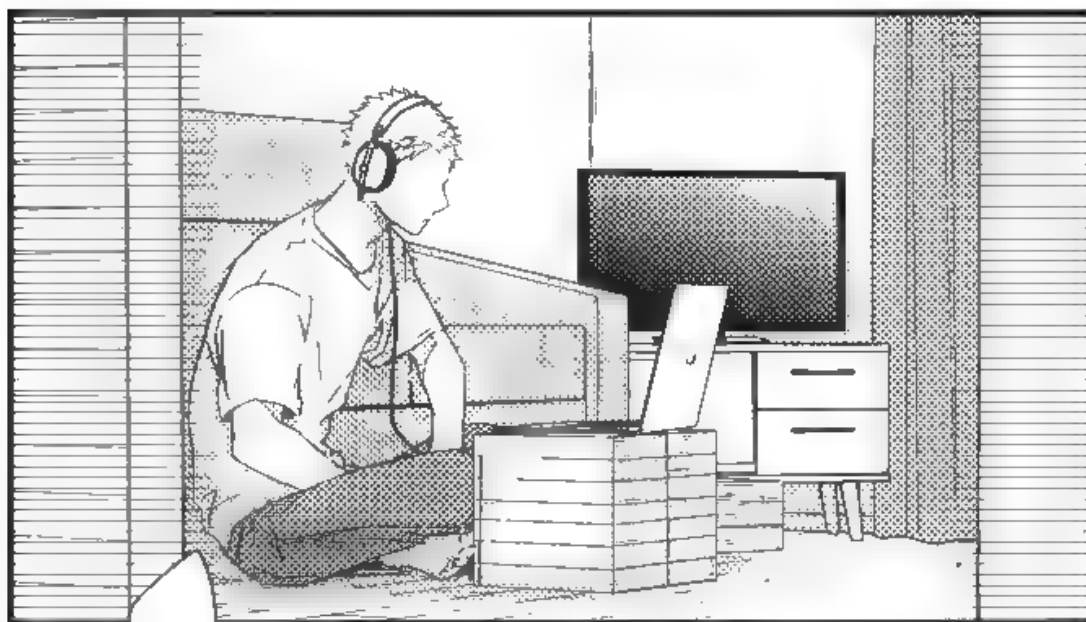
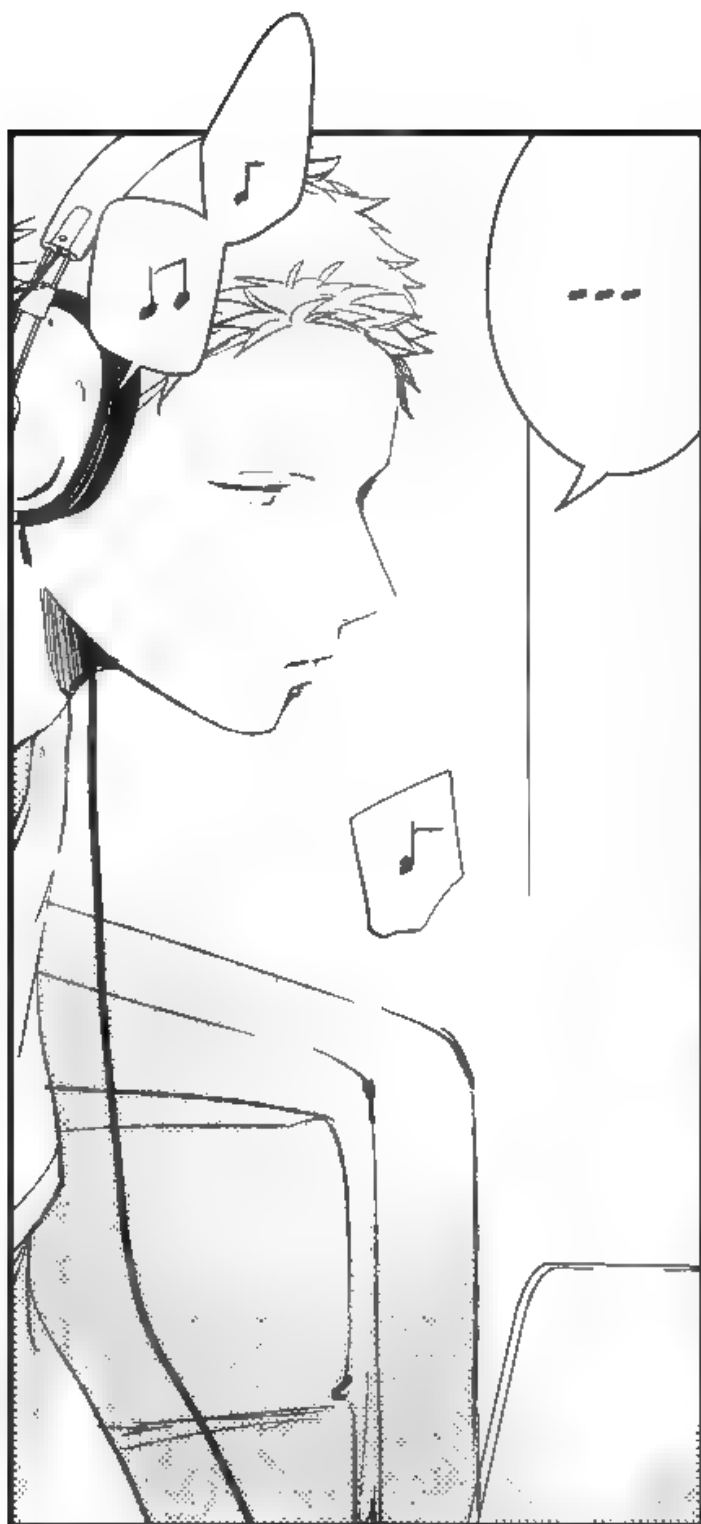
WOW...

3000TR

...WE
THROW
CAUTION
TO THE
WIND AND
GO HOME
TOGETHER.

THIS
FEELS
GREAT.







...THAT AKIHIKO
COULD DO
ANYTHING AND
IT ALL CAME
EASILY TO HIM.



IN THE
END, I
CAN'T
STAY
MAD AT
HIM AT
ALL.

IT'S
NOT
FAIR.



BUT HE
ACTUALLY
SPENDS A
LOT OF TIME
AND EFFORT
ON HIS
MUSIC.

I
GUESS
...



...I NEVER
REALLY
TOOK A
CLOSE
LOOK AT HIM
BEFORE
NOW.

To Be Continued...



given
@given_ssn

We passed the second round of the CAC tryouts. Thank you for your support.

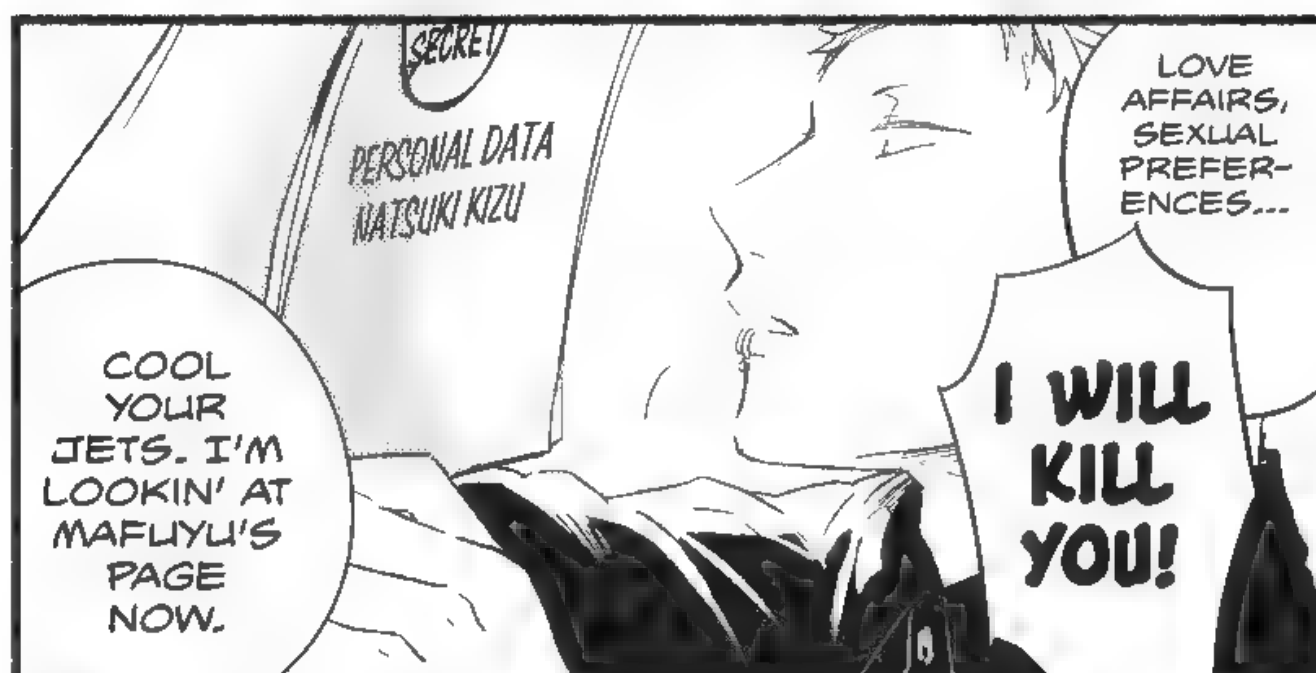


given

by Natsuki Kizu

Character Data Files 1

Kaji, Behind You!!



*The sound effects are RUMBLE.

Character Data Files 2

Basic Stats



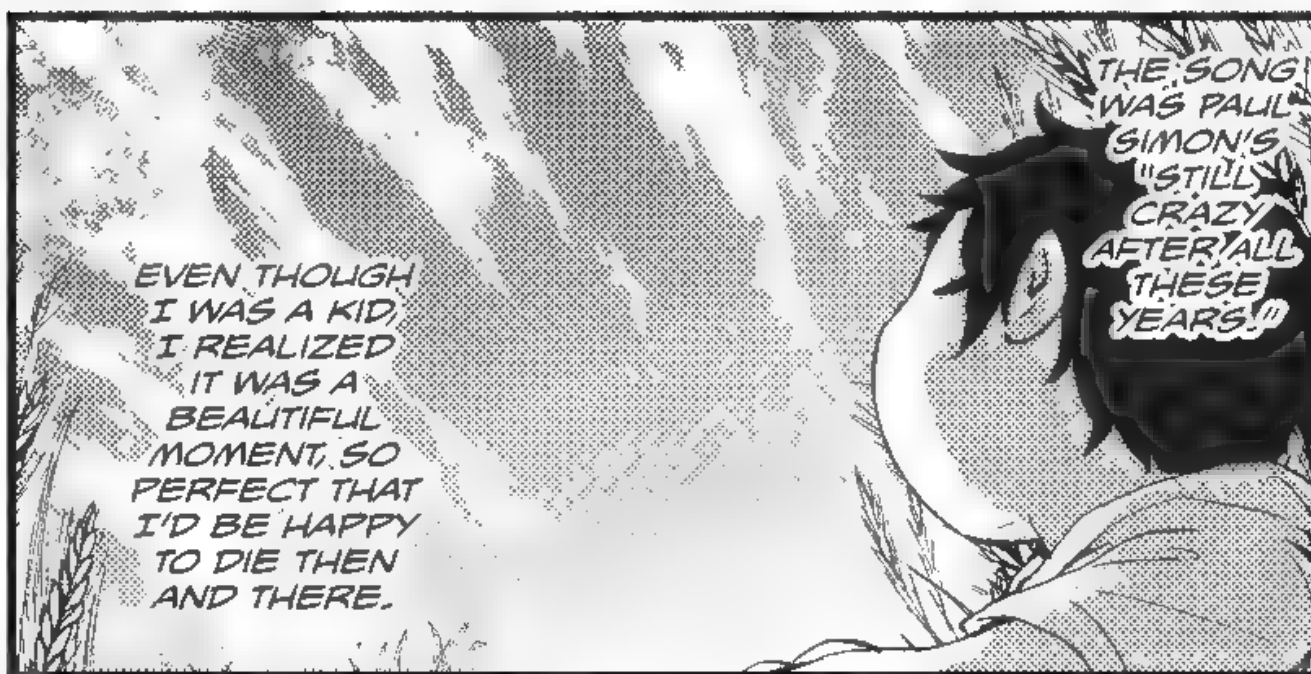
Character Data Files 3

How Akihiko Kaji Got Skint



Character Data Files 4

Definitely the Kind of Kid Who Made Roly-Polies Go into a Ball and Then Played with Them



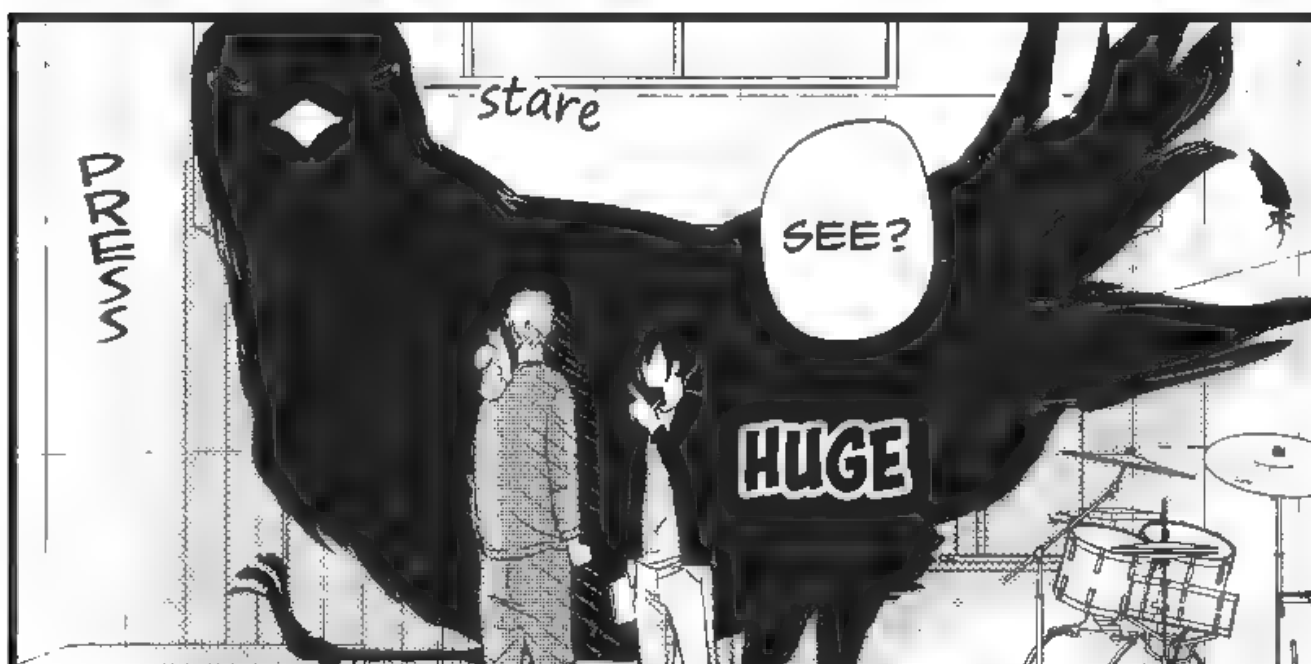
Character Data Files 5

Why Ritsuka Uenoyama Doesn't Watch Ghost Hunter Shows



Character Data Files 6

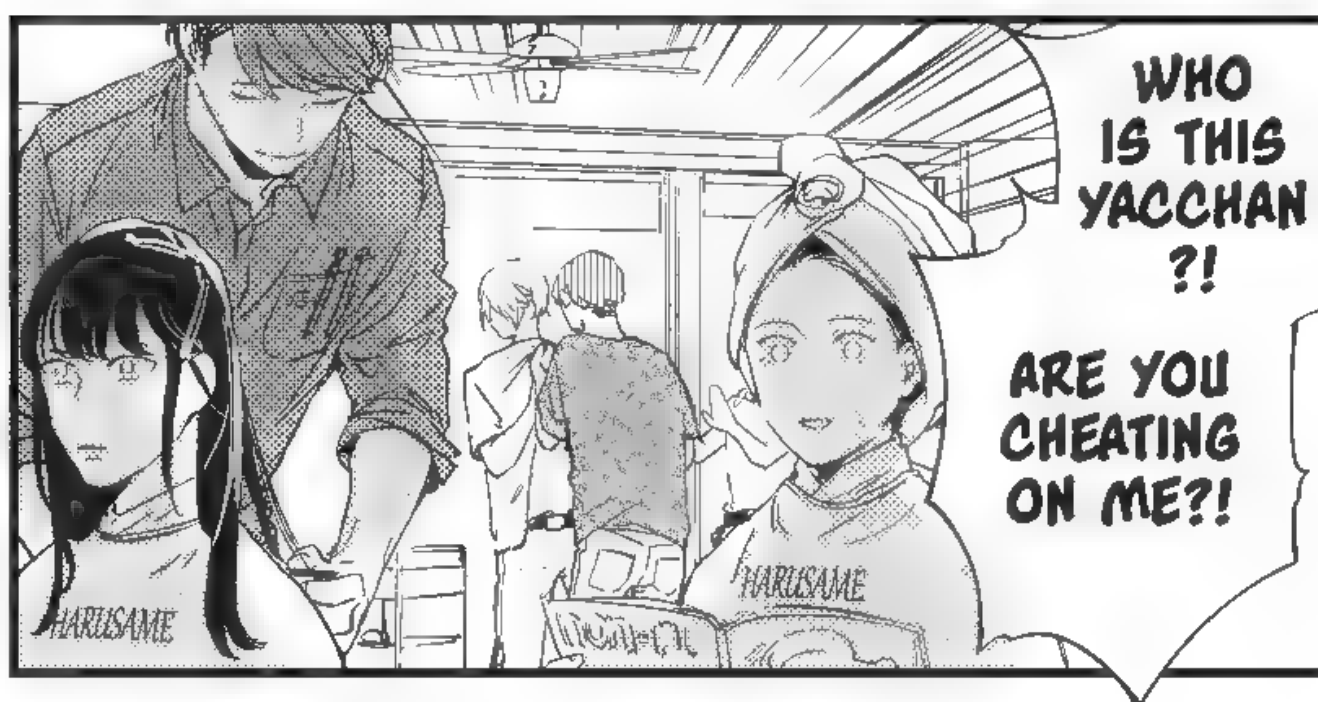
Stand



A giant crow...?

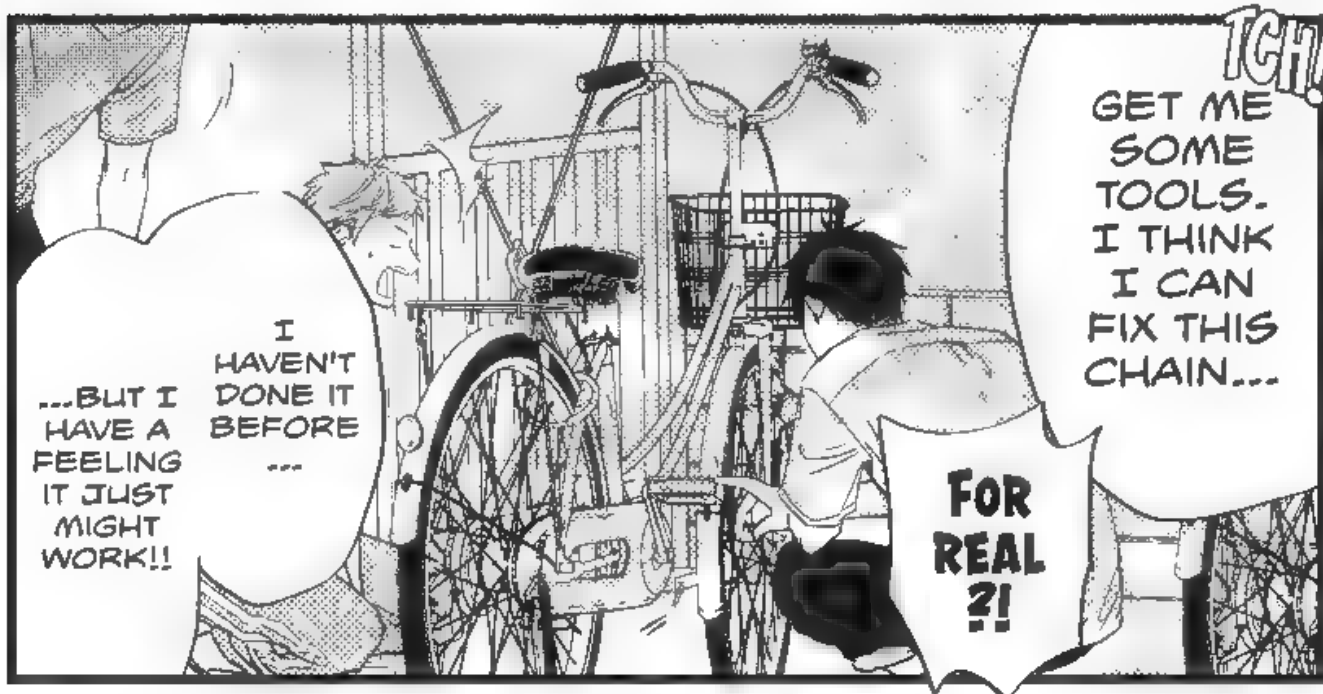
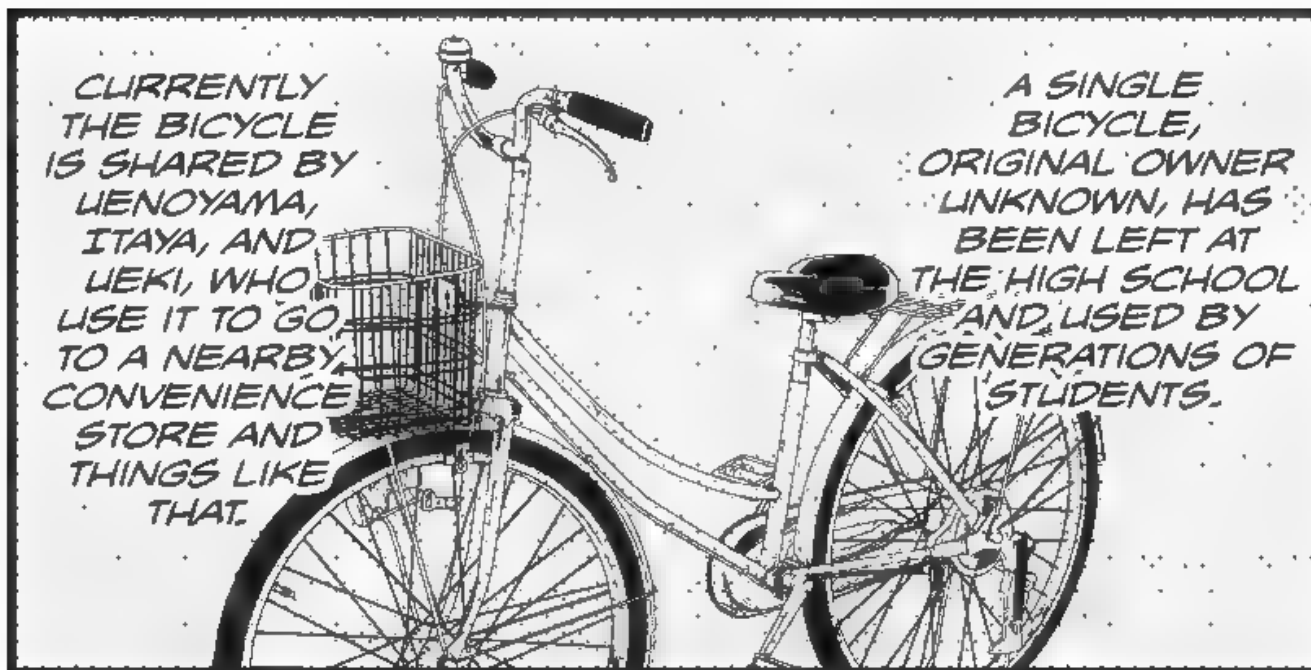
Character Spotlight! 1

Hanaoka of Hair
Salon Harusame



Character Spotlight! 2

High School Trio



Character Spotlight! 3

Middle School Trio




They have too much free time on their hands.

Character Spotlight! 4

Bonus Strip

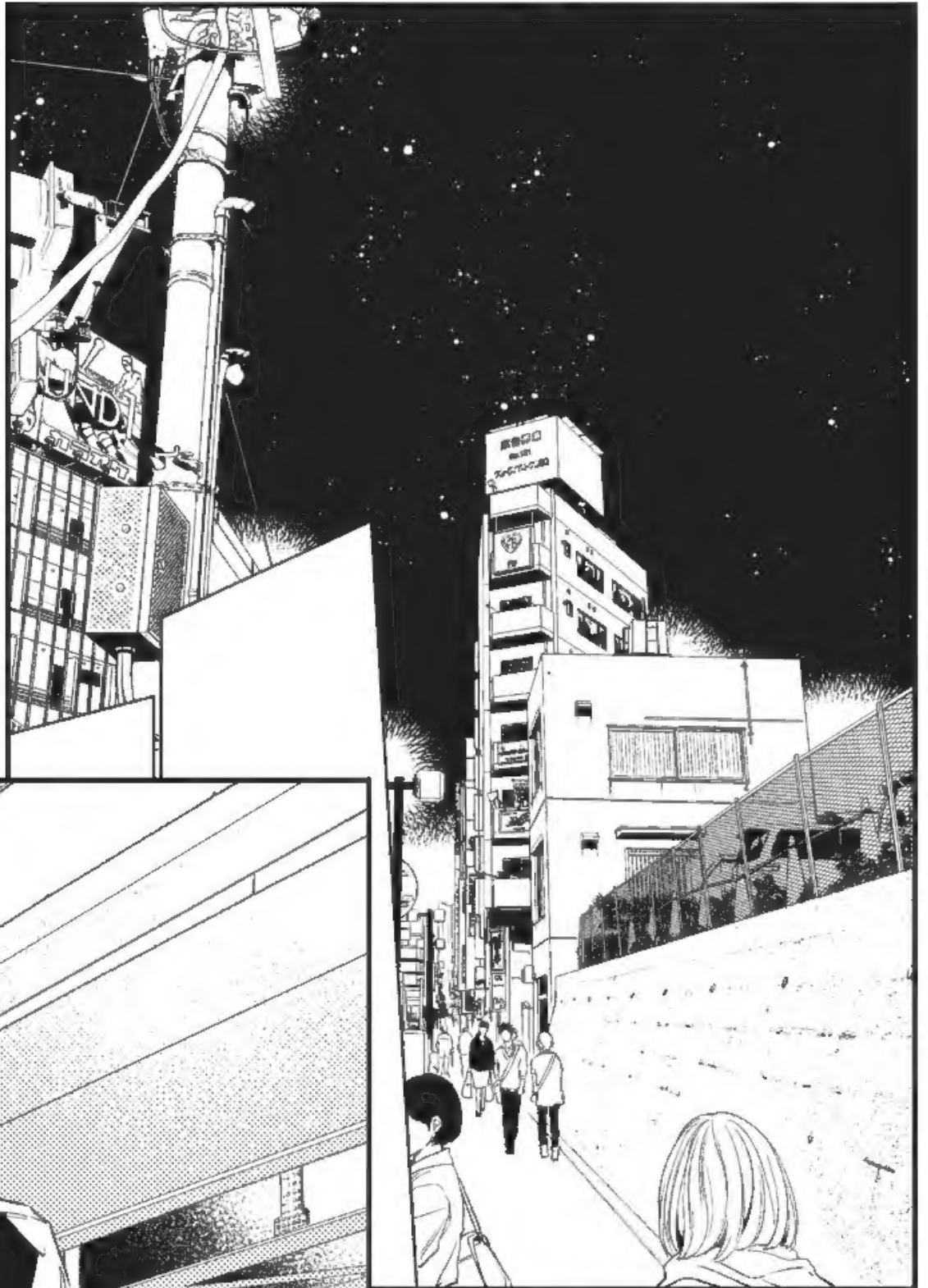


Machida Station, Odakyu Line Area ↓

Bonus! 
Concept Notes
and Sketches

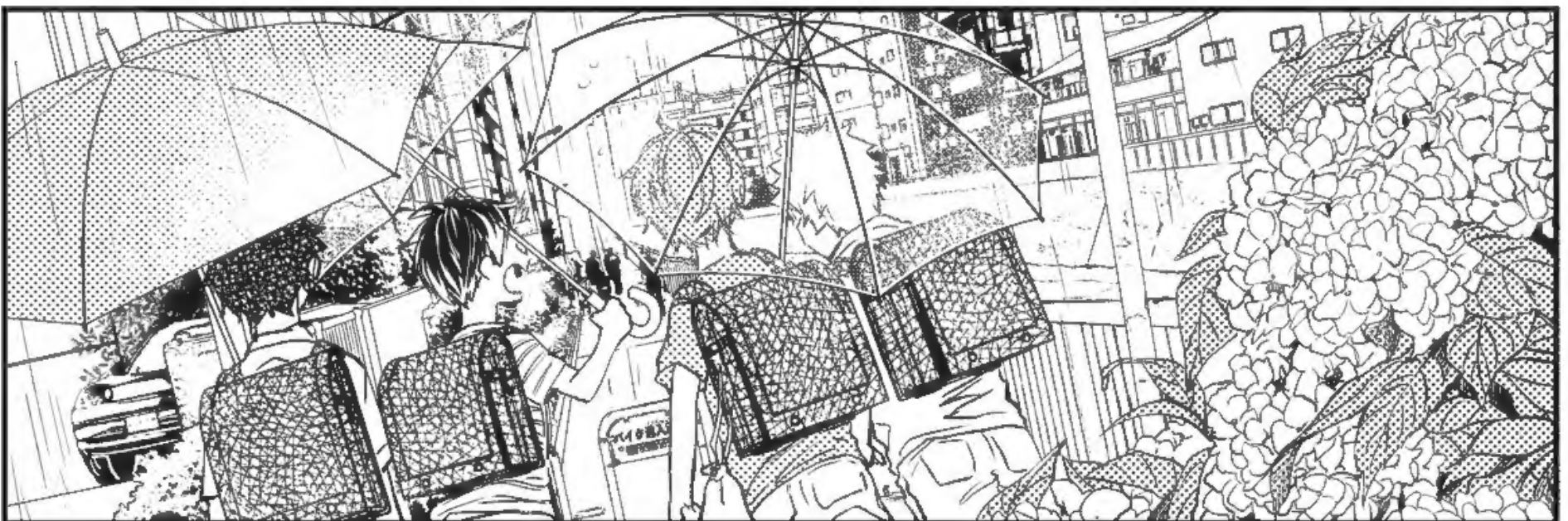
Views of Places That Really Exist

Noborito Station,
Tamagawa Exit ↓



Thanks to Ayaka

Machida Station, South Exit Area ↓



Thanks to Yoneji



SPECIAL THANKS

Eri Hayashi, Rin, Ayaka, Matsushita, and
everyone who helped with research.

About the Author

Natsuki Kizu made her professional debut in 2013 with *Yukimura Sensei and Kei-kun*, followed by the short story collection *Links* and her breakout series, *Given*, which has been adapted into drama CDs and an animated TV series. To find out more about her works, you can follow her on Twitter at [@kizu_ntk](https://twitter.com/kizu_ntk).

Given

Volume 4

SuBLime Manga Edition

Story and Art by **Natsuki Kizu**

Translation—**Sheldon Drzka**

Touch-Up Art and Lettering—**Eric Erbes**

Cover and Graphic Design—**Jimmy Presler**

Editor—**Beryl Becker**

© 2018 Natsuki KIZU

Originally published in Japan in 2018 by Shinshokan Co., Ltd.



The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by SuBLime Manga
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First printing, November 2020



PARENTAL ADVISORY

GIVEN is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains suggestive themes.

SUBLIME

www.SuBLimeManga.com